Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

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CHAPTER 30
YOSUKE KIRIE (2)

THE WEAK-WILLED BOY STEELS HIS HEART IN ORDER TO MEET...

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

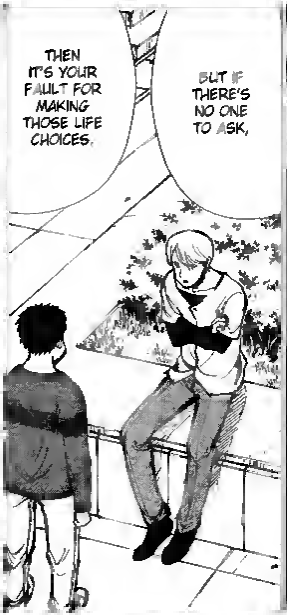
IT WAS ONE MONTH AGO.
Y.. YES.
IS IT... KIRIE?
HMMM.
AND YOU KNOW HONDA, THEN?

I... I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING ABOUT HONDA.
WHAT IS IT?
WELL?
3
ABOUT HER?
HOW DID YOU FEEL
ME TO...
SH... SHE ASKED,
WHY DO YOU ASK?

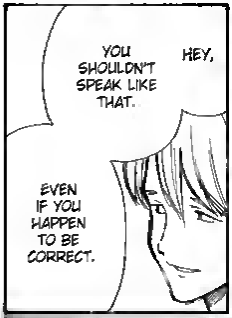
DID I?
WRONG?
IT'S WHAT SHE WANTED, RIGHT?
YOU DON'T THINK YOU'VE DONE ANYTHING WRONG TO HER?
HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT HER? OH, GEEZ.
B... BUT YOU WERE BLACKMAILING HER WITH THE M-MOVIES.
IT'S NOT LIKE EXTORTED HER INTO DOING ANYTHING
I... I KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED.
SHIT.
WHAT? SHE EVEN TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT?

IS THAT A BAD THING?
I DO IT BECAUSE I CAN, RIGHT?
WELL,
IF HONDA DOESN'T LIKE IT, SHE HAS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
AFTER ALL,
SHE'S IN HER SITUATION BECAUSE OF CHOICES SHE MADE.
5
BUT THOSE ARE VERY SPECIAL CASES, YOU UNDER-STAND.
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE AREN'T PEOPLE WHOSE DECISIONS ARE MADE ENTIRELY BY OTHERS,
FOR EVERYONE ELSE, WE HAVE A SERIES OF OPTIONS,
AND WE CHOOSE OUT OF THEM
UNDERSTAND?

YOU STILL DID SOME THINGS THAT WERE WRONG.
BUT... YOU STILL...

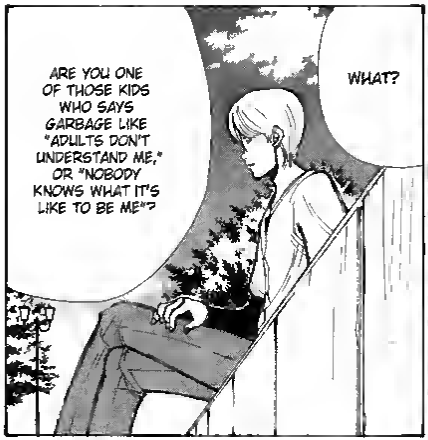

THEN IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR MAKING THOSE LIFE CHOICES.
BUT IF THERE'S NO ONE TO ASK,

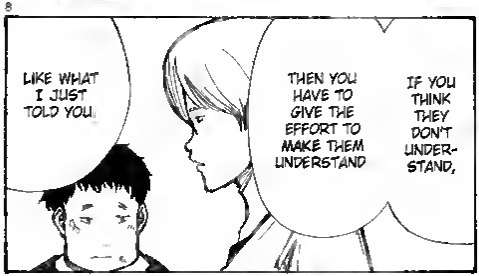
IF YOU CAN'T SOLVE IT ON YOUR OWN,
YOU CAN ASK SOMEONE ELSE FOR HELP.

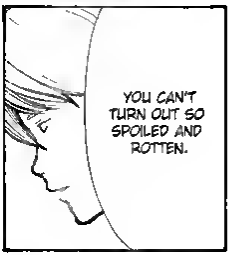

HEY,
YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE CORRECT.

TO LOOK FOR FAULT IN OTHERS RATHER THAN ONESELF, WHENEVER SOMETHING GOES WRONG
IT'S A COMMON HABIT IN ALL KINDS OF WORTHLESS PEOPLE

THE FIRST THING THAT HONDA SHOULD DO,
IS THINK OF HOW TO CORRECT THE THINGS SHE DID WRONG, ISN'T IT?
I'M AN EDUCATOR, YOU KNOW?
I THINK THIS IS MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN ANY SCHOOL LECTURE
FROM THERE, SHE CAN COME TO ME,
AND THINK OF WAYS THAT I CAN CORRECT MYSELF.
BUT IT'S UP TO YOU
TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT.


ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE KIDS WHO SAYS GARBAGE LIKE "ADULTS DON'T UNDERSTAND ME," OR "NOBODY KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE ME"?
WHAT?


LIKE WHAT I JUST TOLD YOU.
THEN YOU HAVE TO GIVE THE EFFORT TO MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND
IF YOU THINK THEY DON'T UNDER-STAND,


YOU CAN'T TURN OUT SO SPOILED AND ROTTEN.

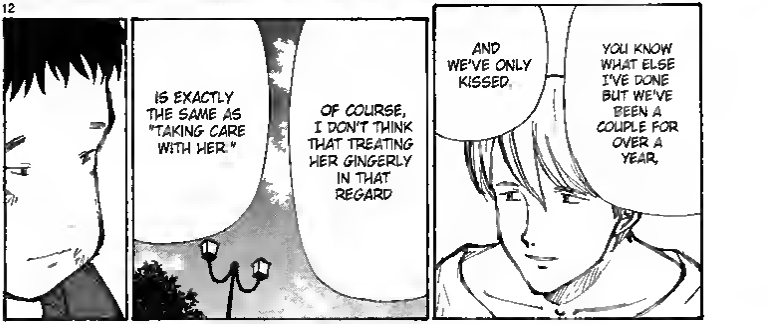
CAN YOU?
YOU CAN'T JUST ABANDON THE EFFORT TO EXPLAIN, AND THEN BLAME THE OTHER PERSON FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING,

PEOPLE WHO TALK ABOUT "FINDING THEM-SELVES"
ARE ALSO WORTHLESS
HERE'S ANOTHER THING
ALL THERE IS, IS WHAT YOU WANT TO DO IN YOUR FUTURE, WHERE YOU WANT TO GO,
AND WHAT TO DO IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT, RIGHT?
THEY'RE JUST AVOIDING THEIR CURRENT STATE,
AND FINDING ESCAPE IN A NONEXISTENT PRETENSE.
ALL THE THINGS THAT YOU'VE DONE
ARE THE SUM OF WHAT MAKES YOU YOURSELF
AND IF YOU CAN'T RECOGNIZE YOUR CURRENT STATE, THEN THAT'S A PROBLEM, ISN'T IT?
WHAT KIND OF "YOU" NEEDS TO BE FOUND?
RIGHT?

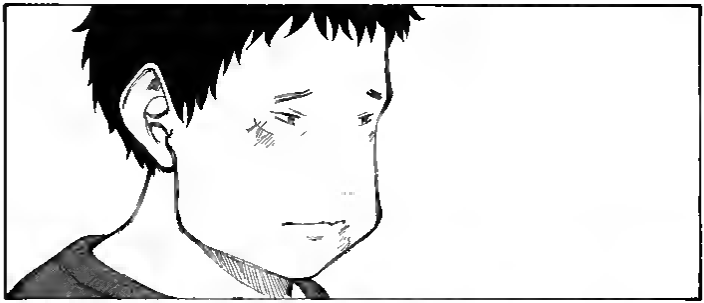
WELL, IT JUST GOES TO SHOW, THERE'S NO CURE FOR STUPIDITY.
IF YOU'VE ONLY DONE SO MUCH IN YOUR LIFE AND THAT'S ALL YOU CAN COME UP WITH,
10
N . NO, NOT REALLY.
BUT I HAVE SEEN HER.
HONDA'S SISTER?
HAVE YOU EVER MET

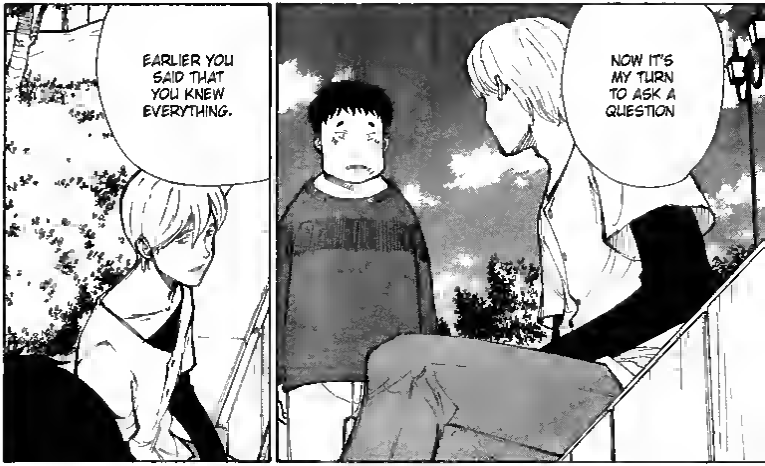
I'VE TAKEN GREAT CARE WITH HER.
HONDA'S SISTER IS A BIT ODD, BUT SHE'S EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO ME
AND SIMPLY WAIT FOR GOOD FORTUNE TO BE SHOWERED UPON THEM FROM ELSEWHERE
THEY ALL BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE SOME SPECIAL SUPERIORITY ABOVE OTHERS.
THEY MAKE NO EFFORT.
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME
HAVE SEX WITH 100 WOMEN AND THE DIFFERENCES DISAPPEAR
IN GENERAL, WOMEN ARE THE SAME THERE'S NO REASON TO PICK ONE ABOVE ANY OTHER.
HONDA IS JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THEM.

SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH HER, AND YOU'LL SEE
BUT HONDA'S SISTER IS DIFFERENT.
THAT I'VE ONLY EVER KISSED HER?
DID YOU KNOW,

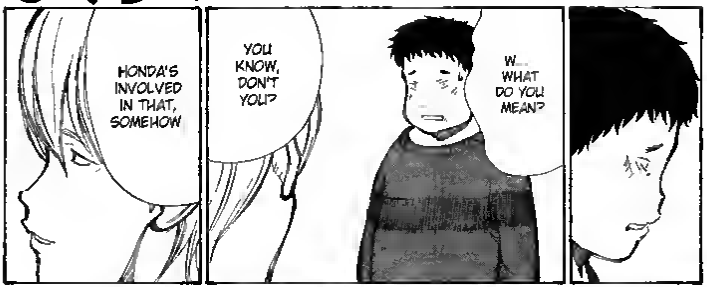

IS EXACTLY THE SAME AS "TAKING CARE WITH HER."
OF COURSE, I DON'T THINK THAT TREATING HER GINGERLY IN THAT REGARD
AND WE'VE ONLY KISSED.
YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE I'VE DONE BUT WE'VE BEEN A COUPLE FOR OVER A YEAR.

IS WHAT I'M SAYING WRONG?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

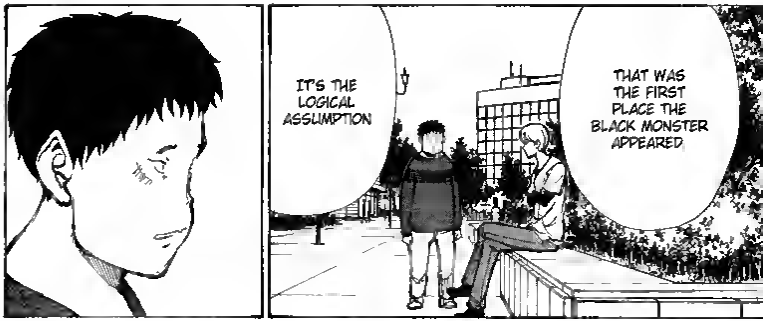


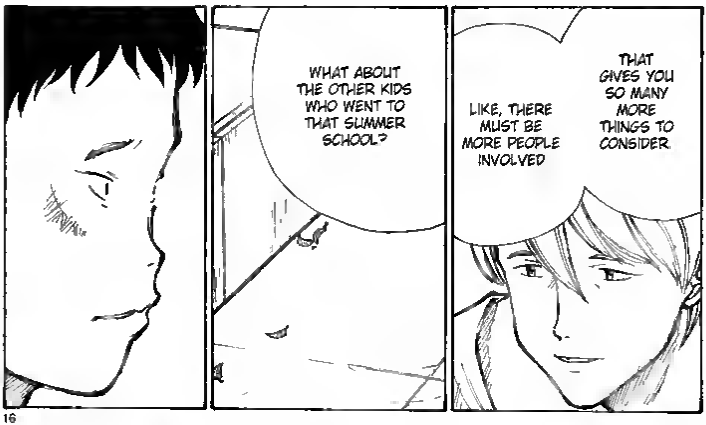

EARLIER YOU SAID THAT YOU KNEW EVERYTHING.
NOW IT'S MY TURN TO ASK A QUESTION

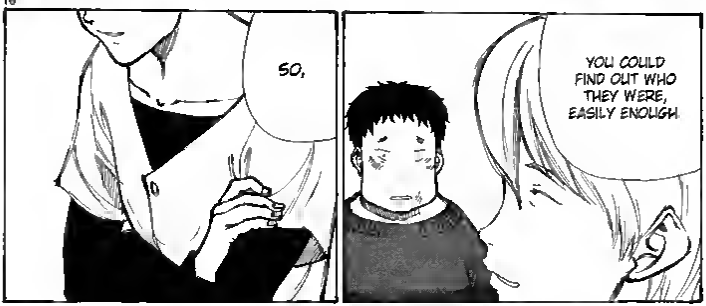
ASIDE FROM ME
A ABOUT...
HONDA, AND YOU...
EVERY-THING ABOUT WHAT?
HONDA AND THE BLACK MONSTER
PUSH
LIKE FOR EXAMPLE,


HONDA'S INVOLVED IN THAT, SOMEHOW
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?
W... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHERE DID YOU MEET HONDA?
THE NATURE SCHOOL?
YOU'RE ALSO CONNECTED TO THE BLACK MONSTER SOMEHOW.
WHICH MEANS,
THERE'S NO OTHER REASON WHY SOMEONE FROM A DIFFERENT SCHOOL WOULD SHOW UP NOW.

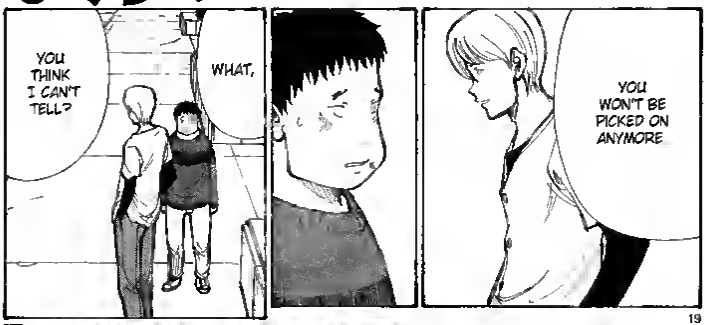

IT'S THE LOGICAL ASSUMPTION
THAT WAS THE FIRST PLACE THE BLACK MONSTER APPEARED.


WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER KIDS WHO WENT TO THAT SUMMER SCHOOL?
LIKE, THERE MUST BE MORE PEOPLE INVOLVED
THAT GIVES YOU SO MANY MORE THINGS TO CONSIDER.


SO,
YOU COULD FIND OUT WHO THEY WERE, EASILY ENOUGH.

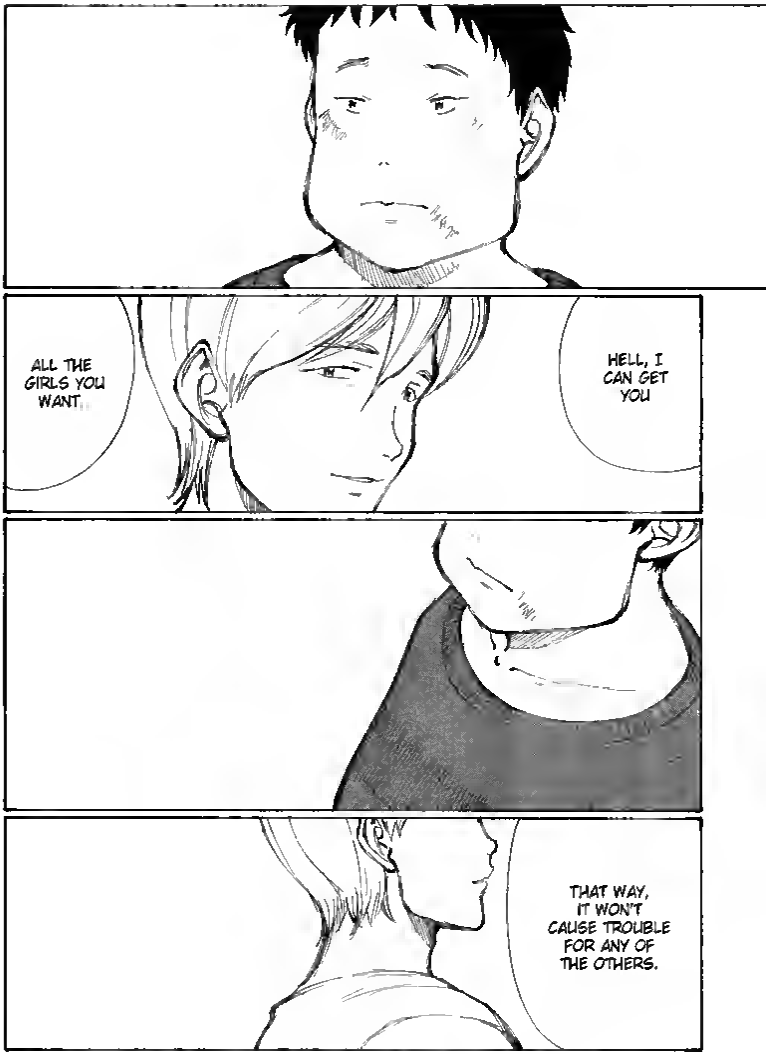
WHERE IS HONDA?
I CAN'T TELL YOU...
SH... SHE'S..

SAY, KIRIE
WELL,
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REALLY DON'T CARE
LET'S
BE FRIENDS
YOU CAN HAVE A FUN LIFE IF YOU STICK WITH ME

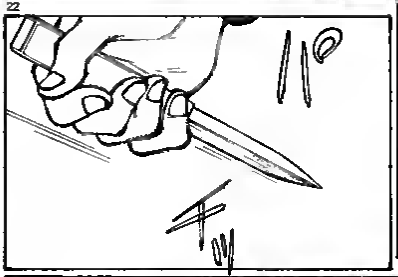

YOU THINK I CAN'T TELL?
WHAT,
YOU WON'T BE PICKED ON ANYMORE

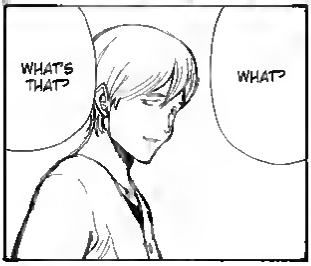
PLUS,

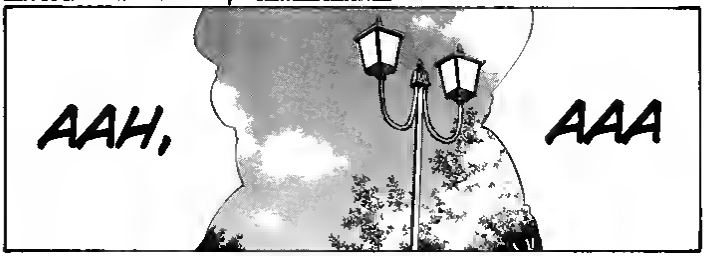
WITH HONDA, DON'T YOU?
YOU WANT TO DO IT


ALL THE GIRLS YOU WANT.
HELL, I CAN GET YOU
THAT WAY, IT WON'T CAUSE TROUBLE FOR ANY OF THE OTHERS.

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT THREATENING YOU OR ANYTHING.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

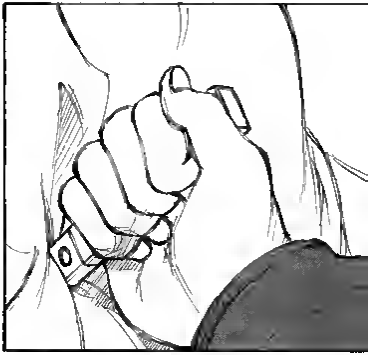


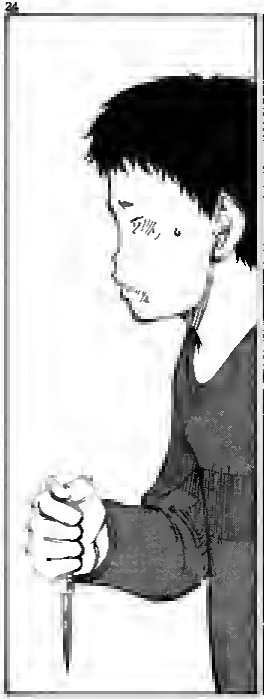

WHAT'S THAT?
WHAT?


AAH,
AAA

ドカ

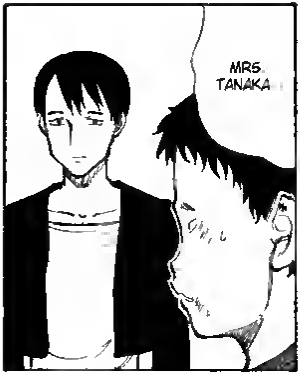
AH!!
ズ ボ!!

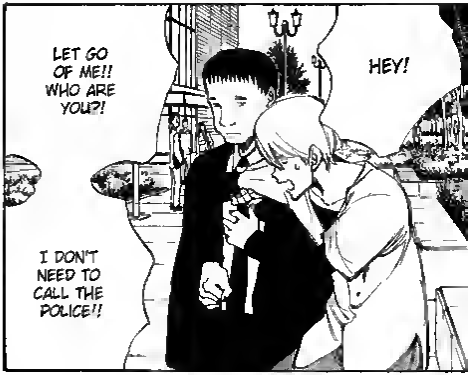


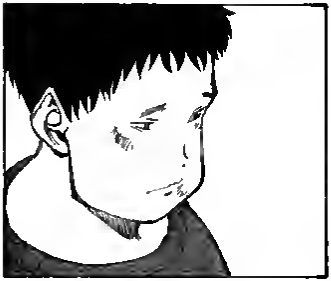


YOU'RE CRAZY!!

MAKE SURE THE POLICE DON'T GET INVOLVED
DIVERT THE PUBLIC ATTENTION
HUH...

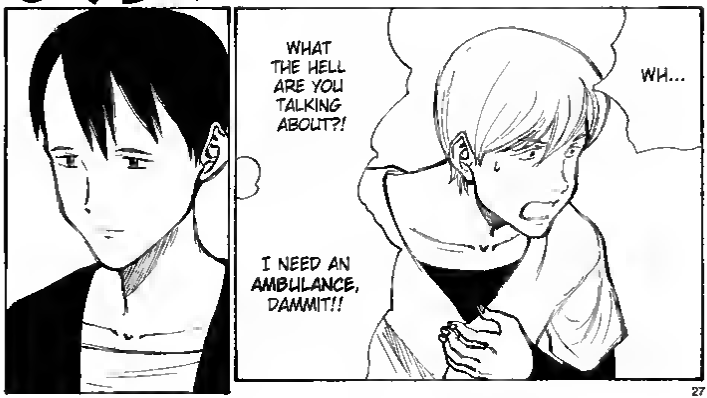

MRS. TANAKA

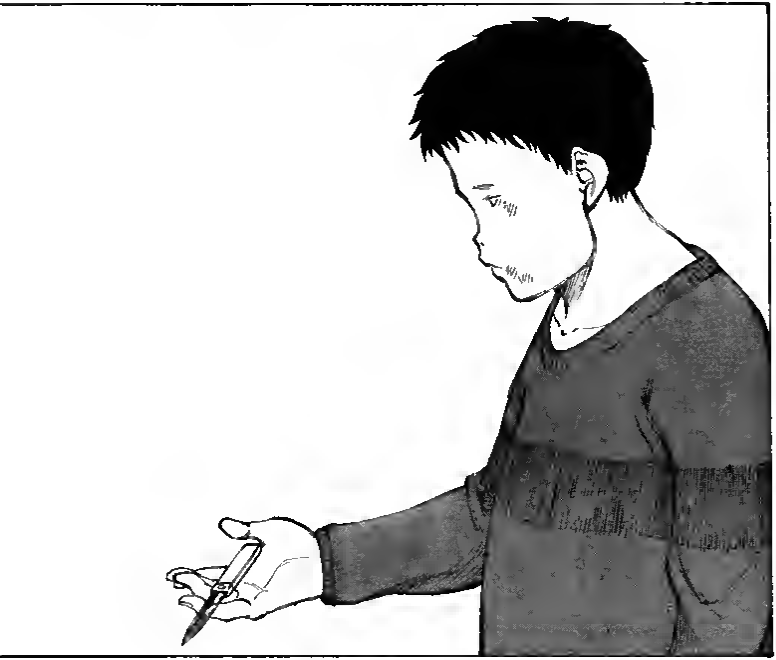

HEY!
LET GO OF ME!! WHO ARE YOU?!
I DON'T NEED TO CALL THE POLICE!!

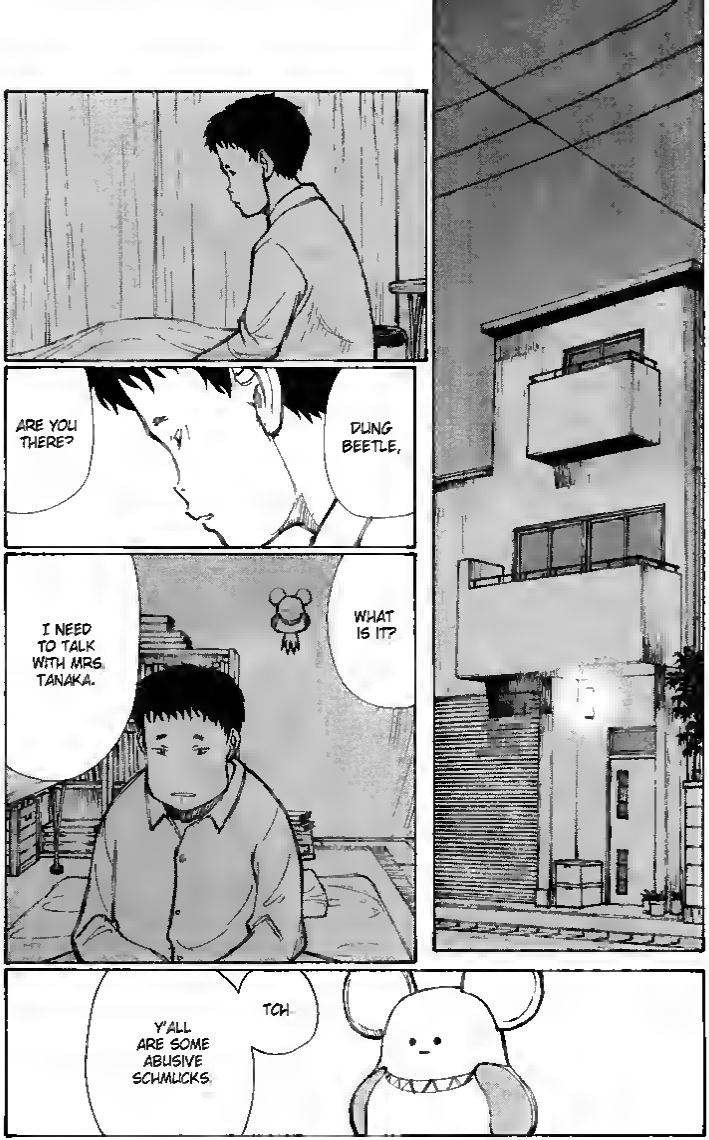


I'M SORRY
FOR MONITORING YOU.

KIRIE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT DONE WITH HIM,

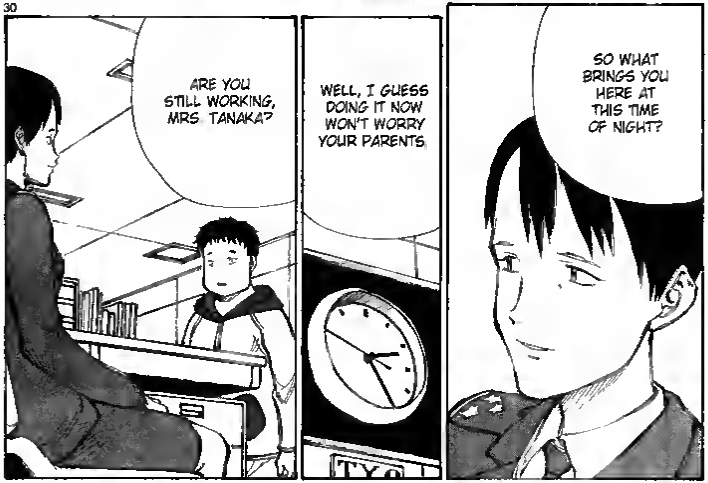

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WH...
I NEED AN AMBULANCE, DAMMIT!!

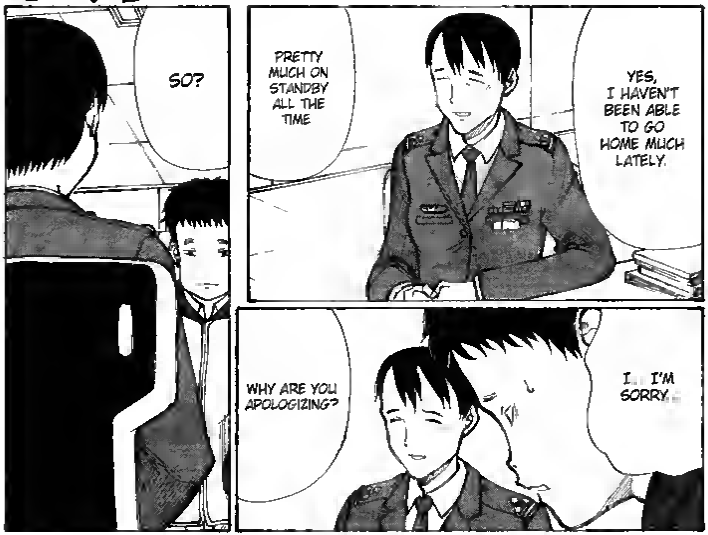


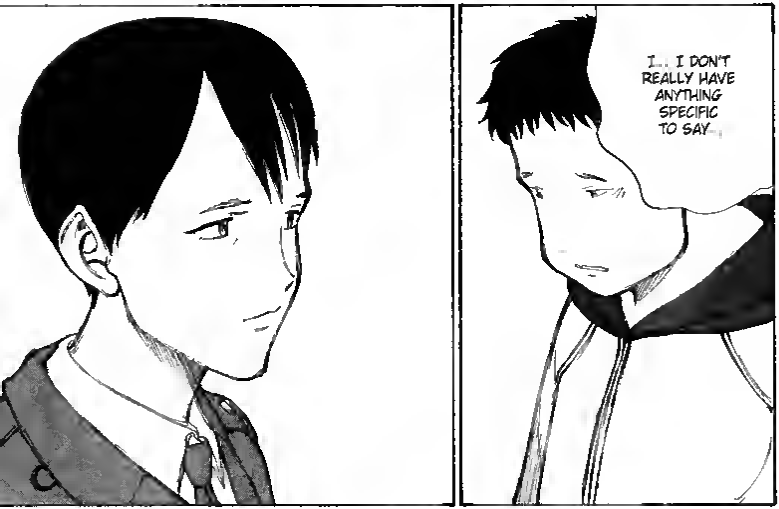

ARE YOU THERE?
DUNG BEETLE,
I NEED TO TALK WITH MRS. TANAKA.
WHAT IS IT?
TCH
Y'ALL ARE SOME ABUSIVE SCHMUCKS.

AH...
KIRIE IS HERE.
RIGHT THIS WAY.

YEAH, YEAH
SORRY, DUNG BEETLE.
I, UH... JUST HAD TO TALK TO CAPTAIN TANAKA
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KANJI?
WELL, I'LL JUST BE LEAVING.
BYE.


ARE YOU STILL WORKING, MRS. TANAKA?
WELL, I GUESS DOING IT NOW WON'T WORRY YOUR PARENTS.
SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?


SO?
PRETTY MUCH ON STANDBY ALL THE TIME
YES, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO HOME MUCH LATELY.
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
I... I'M SORRY...


I... I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC TO SAY...

MRS. TANAKA.
BEING FORCED TO FIGHT FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE WHEN YOU STILL CAN'T ACCEPT WHAT'S HAPPENING.
IT MUST BE HARD
THAT INTERFERES WITH THE BATTLE,
IF I DO SOMETHING
KILL ME.
PLEASE

CHAPTER 30/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
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(Komo)

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Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

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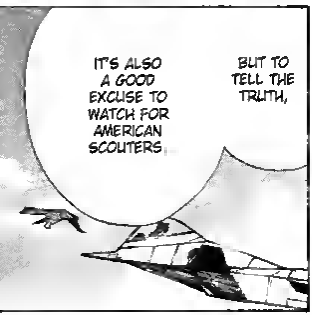
CHAPTER 31
YOSUKE KIRIE (3)

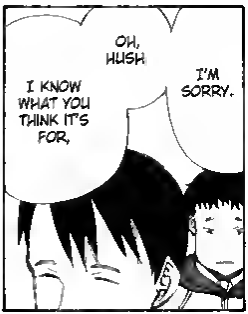
WHAT THE BOY CHOSEN TO BE THE NEXT PILOT WANTED TO TALK ABOUT BEFORE THE BATTLE.

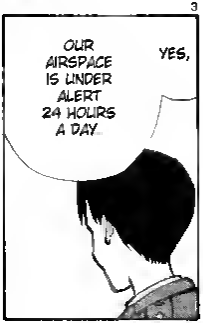
鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

THEY STILL FLY EVEN LATE AT NIGHT.

THE NIGHTS ARE COLD.

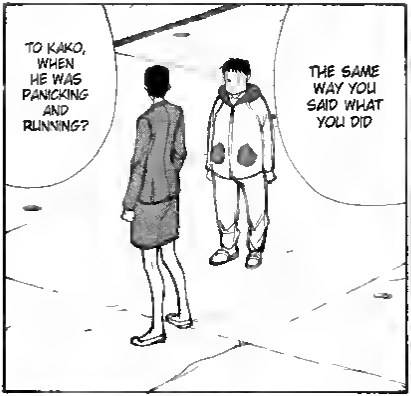

IT'S ALSO A GOOD EXCUSE TO WATCH FOR AMERICAN SCOUTERS.
BUT TO TELL THE TRUTH,

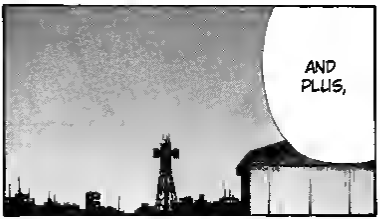

OH, HUSH.
I'M SORRY.
I KNOW WHAT YOU THINK IT'S FOR,


YES,
OUR AIRSPACE IS UNDER ALERT 24 HOURS A DAY.

WHY DID YOU STAB HIM?
KIRIE... WHY DID YOU DO IT? TO... MR. HATAGAI, WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW...
.....
4
DIDN'T YOU FINISH THE JOB?
WHY
IN THAT CASE,

YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WITH YOUR OWN HANDS?
DON'T YOU THINK
BECAUSE I UNDERSTOOD
IT WAS,
TO BE THE ONE WHO PUNISHES HIM.
MAYBE IT IS MY JOB,
AT THE TIME, I REALIZED,


TO KAKO, WHEN HE WAS PANICKING AND RUNNING?
THE SAME WAY YOU SAID WHAT YOU DID


AND PLUS,

YES.

6

I WAS GOING TO BE SUCKED INTO WHAT HE WAS SAYING.
IT SEEMED LIKE,

I WAS AFRAID.

TO STAB HIM
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ABLE
YES...
SO YOU STABBED HIM
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S WHAT I SHOULD DO...
TO KILL SOMEBODY
I DON'T THINK I HAVE THE DETERMINATION YOU'D NEED,
BUT,

YES...
IT'S A TRICKY CHOICE.
WHAT IS MR. HATAGAI DOING NOW?
HE'S UNDER WATCH.
IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL.
IT'S TOO COLD OUT.
LET'S GO INSIDE.

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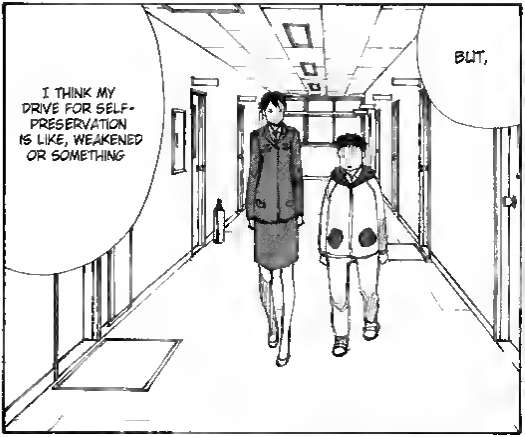
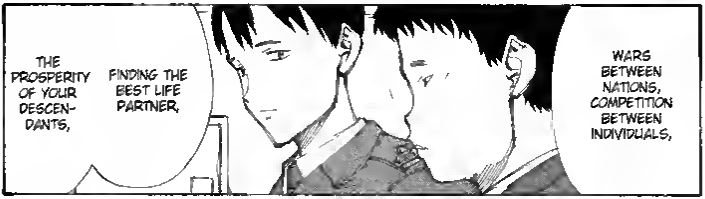
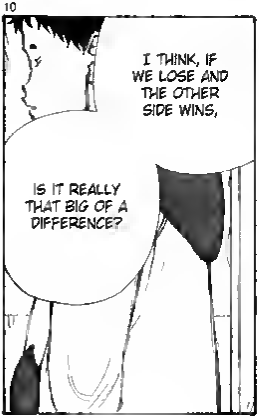
THIS ENTIRE WORLD THAT ALL OF YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIVE IN WILL DISAPPEAR, WON'T IT?
BUT IF YOU *DON'T* FIGHT,


I THINK MY DRIVE FOR SELF-PRESERVATION IS LIKE, WEAKENED OR SOMETHING
BUT,

I KNOW THAT.


THE PROSPERITY OF YOUR DESCEN-DANTS,
FINDING THE BEST LIFE PARTNER,
WARS BETWEEN NATIONS, COMPETITION BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS,

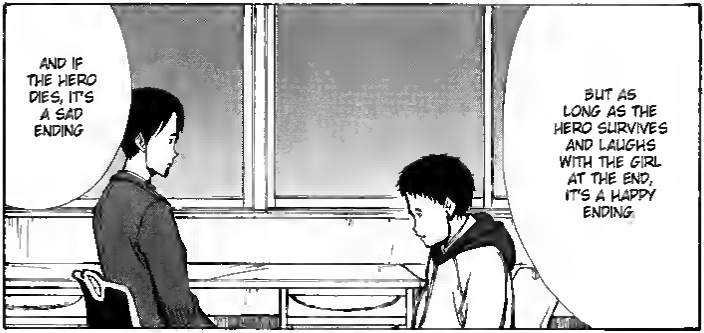

I THINK, IF WE LOSE AND THE OTHER SIDE WINS,
IS IT REALLY THAT BIG OF A DIFFERENCE?

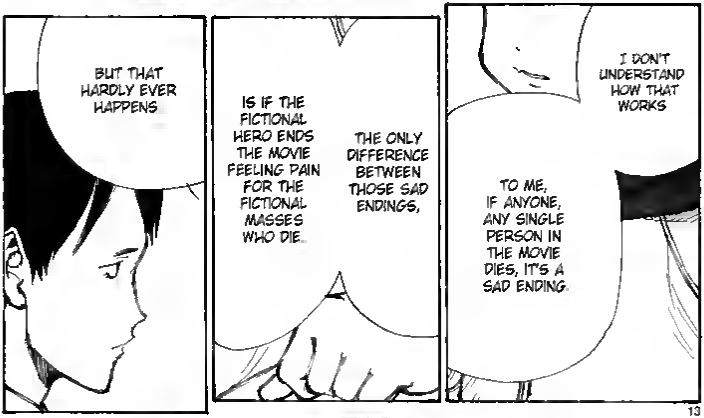
I WONDER IF THE PEOPLE I'M GOING TO PROTECT,
REALLY NEED TO BE PROTECTED

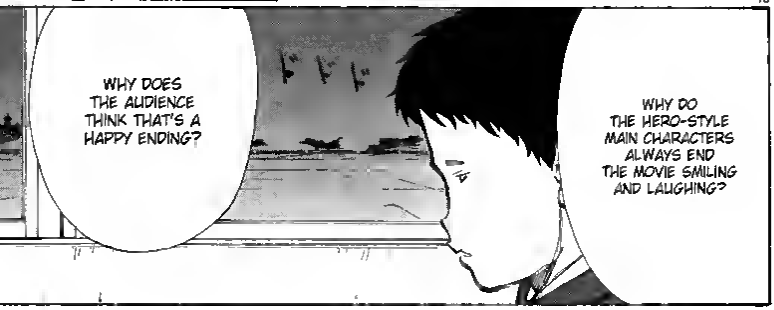
MAYBE I'M JUST NOT *RIGHT*, AS A HUMAN BEING AS A LIVING CREATURE
ALL THIS STUFF THAT MOST PEOPLE SEEM TO FIND SECOND NATURE JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO ME

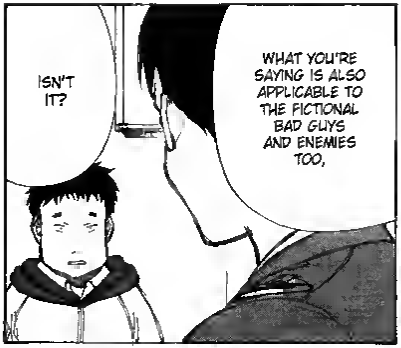
SIT WHEREVER YOU LIKE
WE CAN USE THIS ROOM
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE EXCITING BATTLE SEQUENCES
I HAVE TROUBLE WATCHING ACTION MOVIES
WELL,
IT'S JUST THAT IN THOSE MOVIES, MOST OF THOSE SCENES FEATURE RANDOM PEOPLE FALLING VICTIM TO WHAT HAPPENS
THAT'S NOT EVEN A PROBLEM, EITHER
IF THOSE EVENTS WERE REAL, THAT KIND OF STUFF WOULD HAPPEN
IT WOULD BE CRAZY TO PRETEND THEY WOULDN'T

BUT THE PEOPLE WATCHING THE MOVIE DON'T EVER SPARE A SECOND THOUGHT FOR ALL OF THOSE ANONYMOUS EXTRAS WHO DIE.
INSTEAD, THEY ARE EXTREMELY AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS
AND THE POOR PEOPLE WHO DIE ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD ARE THE SAME.
TO ME, THE MAIN CHARACTER DYING,
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEM
THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING AND THINKING IN A FICTIONAL WORLD.


AND IF THE HERO DIES, IT'S A SAD ENDING
BUT AS LONG AS THE HERO SURVIVES AND LAUGHS WITH THE GIRL AT THE END, IT'S A HAPPY ENDING


BUT THAT HARDLY EVER HAPPENS
IS IF THE FICTIONAL HERO ENDS THE MOVIE FEELING PAIN FOR THE FICTIONAL MASSES WHO DIE.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THOSE SAD ENDINGS,
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT WORKS
TO ME, IF ANYONE, ANY SINGLE PERSON IN THE MOVIE DIES, IT'S A SAD ENDING.


WHY DOES THE AUDIENCE THINK THAT'S A HAPPY ENDING?
WHY DO THE HERO-STYLE MAIN CHARACTERS ALWAYS END THE MOVIE SMILING AND LAUGHING?

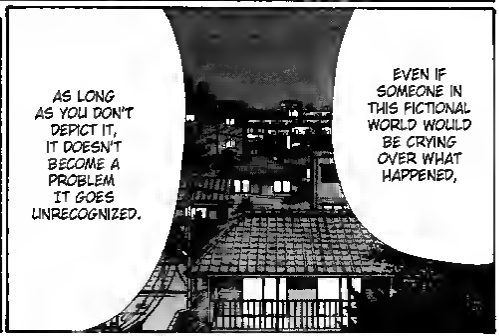

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS ALSO APPLICABLE TO THE FICTIONAL BAD GUYS AND ENEMIES TOO,
ISN'T IT?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN

YES.

IF YOU ASSUME THAT MOVIES ARE MADE FOR PURE ENJOYMENT,
THEN YOU'D WANT THEM TO END HAPPILY, EVEN IF IT IS A LIE.

THAT'S WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT.


AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DEPICT IT, IT DOESN'T BECOME A PROBLEM IT GOES UNRECOGNIZED.
EVEN IF SOMEONE IN THIS FICTIONAL WORLD WOULD BE CRYING OVER WHAT HAPPENED,

I THINK IF EVERYONE COULD NORMALLY UNDERSTAND THOSE THINGS,
THERE WOULD BE FEWER PROBLEMS IN THE WORLD
I MIGHT BE DOING THE RIGHT THING,
BUT THE OTHER SIDE MIGHT BE, TOO
IT MIGHT BE SAD FOR ME,
BUT IT MIGHT BE SAD FOR THEM, TOO
IS THAT WHY
YOU CAN'T FIGHT?

THEY TRY TO ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR PERSONAL SITUATION AND CHOICES TO OUTSIDE INFLUENCES.
JUST LIKE YOUR TEACHER SAID,
TRUE, MOST PEOPLE TEND TO SIDE WITH THEIR IN-GROUP; THEIR PART OF SOCIETY.
I SEE.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU DO, KIRIE.
I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT,
WILL UNCONSCIOUSLY CHOOSE TO PROTECT THEIR OWN PEOPLE
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T STAND IN ANOTHER MAN'S SHOES
BUT SOLDIERS ACTUALLY THINK QUITE A BIT ABOUT THE THINGS YOU'RE SPEAKING OF.
THIS MIGHT SURPRISE YOU,

SOMETIMES YOU'LL EVEN GET TO MEET THEIR FAMILIES
AND ESPECIALLY IN TODAY'S WORLD, IT'S QUITE COMMON TO MEET SOLDIERS FROM POSSIBLE "ENEMY" NATIONS
BUT FOR US SOLDIERS, IT'S ANOTHER NATION... A COMPETING COUNTRY IS THE ENEMY.
IN YOUR CASE, THERE'S ANOTHER WORLD TO THINK ABOUT,
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
I WILL KILL HIM OR HER WITHOUT BLINKING.
BUT WHEN THAT TIME COMES AND I'M FACED WITH THAT CHOICE,
FOR WHAT I MUST DO.
THERE MIGHT COME A TIME WHEN THIS FAMILY WILL HATE ME,
THERE MIGHT COME A TIME WHEN I HAVE TO KILL THIS PERSON.
AND THEN YOU THINK,

I HATE TO SAY THIS,
BUT WHAT THE TV AND MEDIA TELL YOU IS WRONG.
THE VALUE OF OUR LIVES IS NOT EQUAL IT JUST ISN'T TRUE.
FROM A VERY BROAD PERSPECTIVE IT MIGHT BE SO,
BUT BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE PERSONAL EMOTIONS, OUR INDIVIDUAL VIEWS ARE ALL INEQUAL
ANYONE WHO SAYS THEY'RE STILL THE SAME IS MAKING EXCEPTIONS FOR THEIR OWN LIFE.
I BELIEVE THAT LIFE IS IMPORTANT. VERY MUCH SO.
BUT THERE IS AN ORDER TO ITS IMPORTANCE

THAT'S WHY, WHEN FACED WITH A CHOICE
BETWEEN THE DEATH OF A FRIEND AND THE DEATH OF A STRANGER,
I WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE THE DEATH OF A STRANGER
THIS IS BECAUSE THEY ASSIGN IMPORTANCE TO THESE THINGS.
BUT YOU WON'T FIND MANY WHO CRY WHEN A LIVESTOCK PIG IS KILLED.
PEOPLE MIGHT BE SAD WHEN A DOLPHIN DIES,
19
IF ONLY ONE OF TWO IS GOING TO SURVIVE, IT DOESN'T PARTICULARLY MATTER TO THE WHOLE WHICH ONE IT IS.
THIS IS IN LINE WITH WHAT YOU SAID, KIRIE.
THIS IS RATHER PARADOXICAL, BUT ALL LIFE IS A HOLON THAT EXISTS AS PART OF A WHOLE

* Holon A system that while complete and functioning on its own is also part of a larger system

SO IF THERE WAS YOU AND ANOTHER PERSON,
AND ONE OF YOU HAD TO DIE,
YOU WOULD CHOOSE YOURSELF

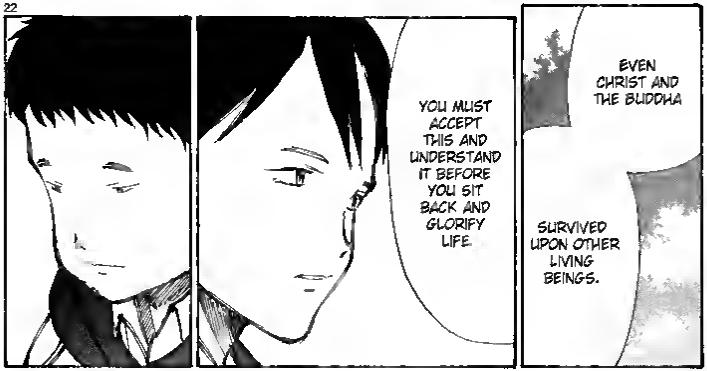
BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT YOUR VIEWPOINT
EXISTS AS A REACTION TO OTHER PEOPLE, PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND, OR EVEN TRY
THERE'S NOTHING THAT SAYS THE OTHER PERSON CAN'T BE SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT.
IN THAT CASE, I THINK IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOUR GOOD SIDE

ON THE SURFACE, MY VIEWS ARE THE SAME AS THOSE PEOPLE YOU HATE,
BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME.

ALL HUMAN BEINGS GIVEN LIFE
ARE ALSO BURDENED WITH KARMA AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOW THEY TREAT LIFE.

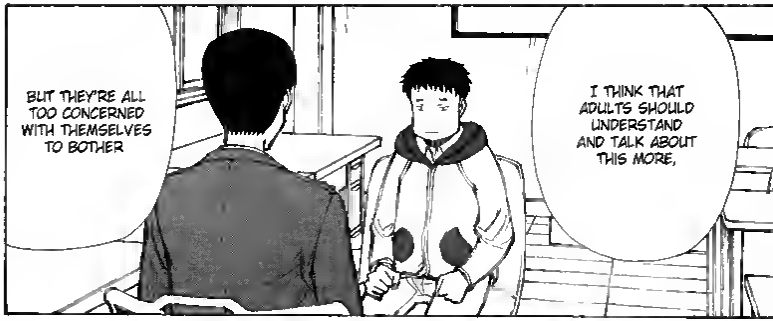
YOU WILL NOT FIND A SINGLE PERSON WHO LIVES WITHOUT STEALING THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

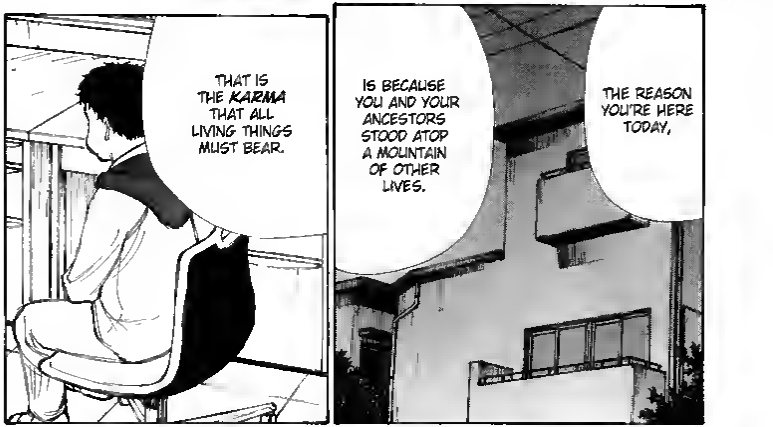
WE EAT PLANTS,
AND WE EAT ANIMALS.


EVEN CHRIST AND THE BUDDHA SURVIVED UPON OTHER LIVING BEINGS.
YOU MUST ACCEPT THIS AND UNDERSTAND IT BEFORE YOU SIT BACK AND GLORIFY LIFE.

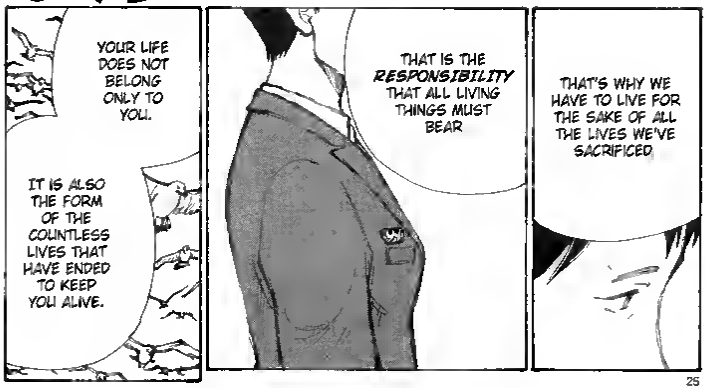
THE FACT THAT YOU ARE ALIVE,
MEANS THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE DIED.
THIS DOESN'T JUST APPLY TO OTHER LIVING THINGS.
YOU CAN ALSO SAY IT ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS
THEY SAY ALL LIFE IS EQUAL,
BUT NOW MUCH LIFE IS CONSUMED
TO KEEP THEM ALIVE EVERYDAY?
THEY FORGET WHAT IT MEANS,
TO EAT A PIG.
ESPE-CIALLY NOW,
WHEN SURVIVING TODAY IS SO SIMPLE AND MATTER-OF-FACT, PEOPLE TEND TO FORGET.

YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.
I THINK YOU'RE A SMART BOY.


I THINK THAT ADULTS SHOULD UNDERSTAND AND TALK ABOUT THIS MORE,
BUT THEY'RE ALL TOO CONCERNED WITH THEMSELVES TO BOTHER

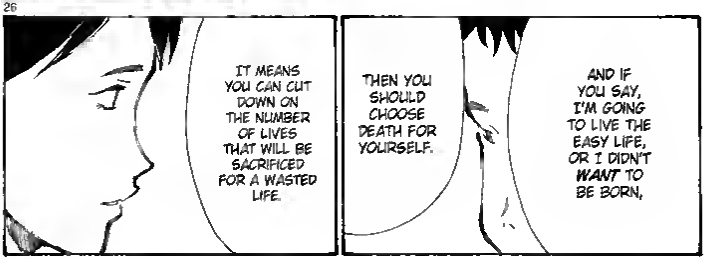

THE REASON YOU'RE HERE TODAY,
IS BECAUSE YOU AND YOUR ANCESTORS STOOD ATOP A MOUNTAIN OF OTHER LIVES.
THAT IS THE *KARMA* THAT ALL LIVING THINGS MUST BEAR.

I'M NOT LOOKING DOWN ON LIFE AT ALL
I DON'T THINK THAT MEANINGLESS KILLING IS A GOOD THING
BUT I DON'T THINK THE KILLING THAT TAKES PLACE TO KEEP YOU AND THE PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT ALIVE
SHOULD BE IGNORED OR DOWNPLAYED, EITHER.

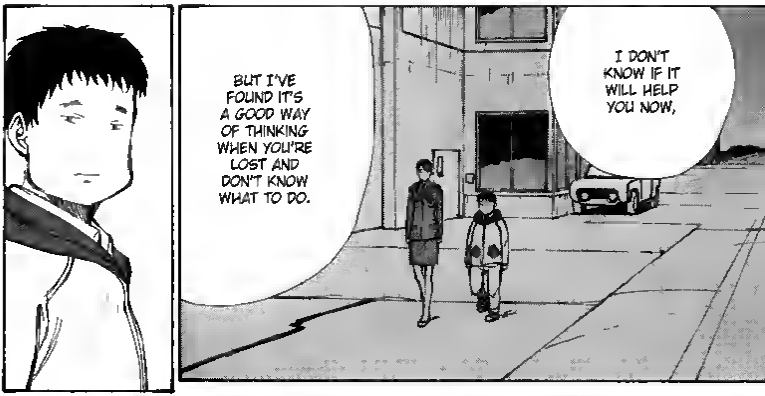

YOUR LIFE DOES NOT BELONG ONLY TO YOU.
IT IS ALSO THE FORM OF THE COUNTLESS LIVES THAT HAVE ENDED TO KEEP YOU ALIVE.
THAT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT ALL LIVING THINGS MUST BEAR
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO LIVE FOR THE SAKE OF ALL THE LIVES WE'VE SACRIFICED

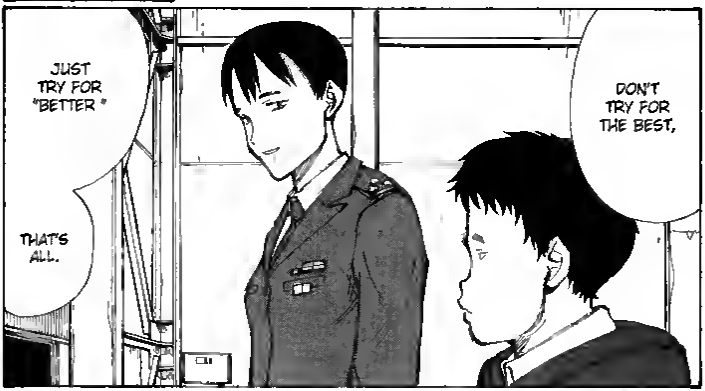
YOU ARE ALREADY SUPPORTED BY SACRIFICE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.

THAT KARMA AND RESPONSIBILITY CANNOT BE AVOIDED
AND USE THE LIFE YOU WERE GIVEN TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT.
SO YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR THAT,


IT MEANS YOU CAN CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF LIVES THAT WILL BE SACRIFICED FOR A WASTED LIFE.
THEN YOU SHOULD CHOOSE DEATH FOR YOURSELF.
AND IF YOU SAY, I'M GOING TO LIVE THE EASY LIFE, OR I DIDN'T *WANT* TO BE BORN,

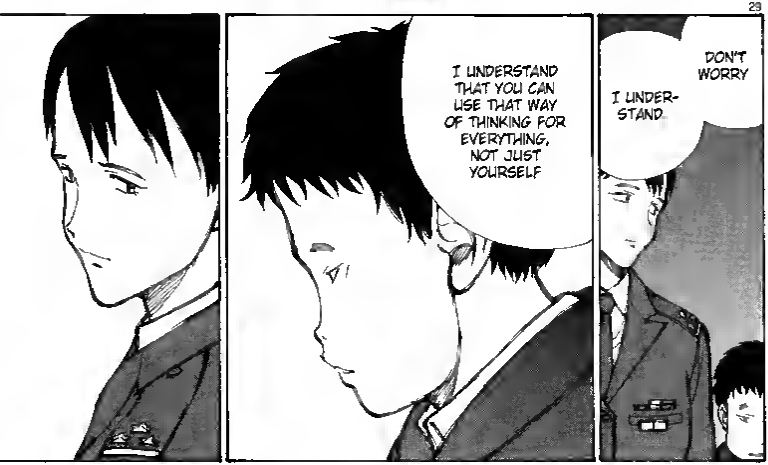
I BELIEVE
THAT I'VE CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR MANY PEOPLE IN MY LIFE
NOW, TO CHANGE THE TOPIC JUST A BIT,
BUT I CAN'T MAKE IT UP TO ALL OF THEM
THERE ARE MANY THINGS YOU CAN NEVER TAKE BACK
I GUESS, TO REPHRASE THAT,
IT'S JUST TO LIVE IN A WAY THAT YOU CAN ACCEPT AND BE PROUD OF
BUT THE ONE THING YOU CAN ALWAYS DO IN RETURN
IS DEVOTE YOURSELF TO HELP SOMEONE ELSE AS BEST YOU CAN
CAN YOU ACCEPT THAT?


I DON'T KNOW IF IT WILL HELP YOU NOW,
BUT I'VE FOUND IT'S A GOOD WAY OF THINKING WHEN YOU'RE LOST AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.


DON'T TRY FOR THE BEST,
JUST TRY FOR "BETTER."
THAT'S ALL.

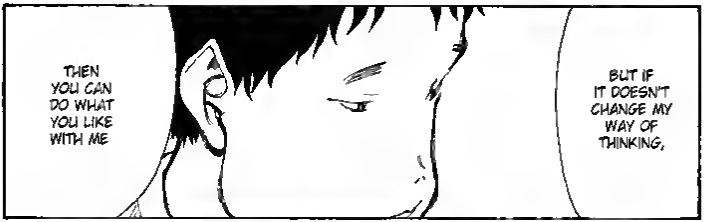
PEOPLE TRY TO CHOOSE THE BEST THING OR THE BEST ACTION,
AND THEN END UP HESITATING AND REGRETTING IT AFTERWARD.

BUT YOU WON'T JUST FIND THE BEST ANSWER TO ANYTHING, IN YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.
AND I THINK THAT THE IDEA OF THE "BEST" ANYTHING IS A WASTE OF BRAIN CELLS IN AND OF ITSELF.
INSTEAD, JUST USE YOUR TIME TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING "BETTER."
AS LONG AS YOU SEARCH FOR SOMETHING BETTER,
EVEN IF YOU MAKE MISTAKES,
IT GENERALLY WON'T BE A WASTE OF YOUR TIME
OF COURSE, THIS ONLY COUNTS,
FOR THOSE WHO WILL HAVE A NEXT TIME


I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN USE THAT WAY OF THINKING FOR EVERYTHING, NOT JUST YOURSELF
I UNDER-STAND.
DON'T WORRY

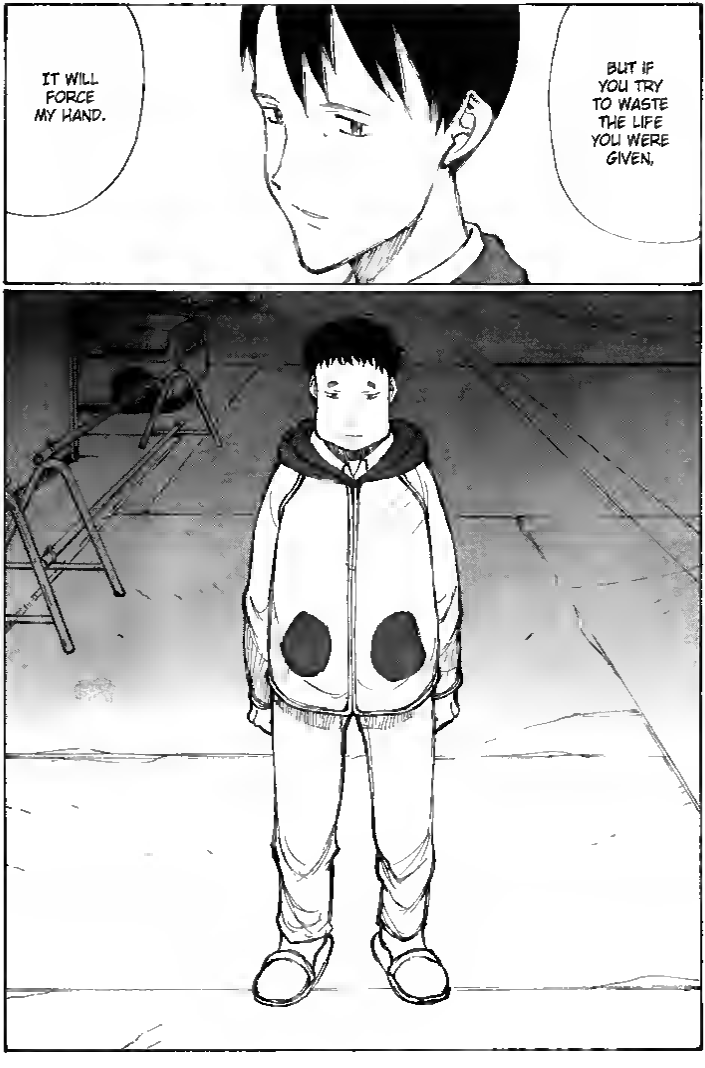
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN

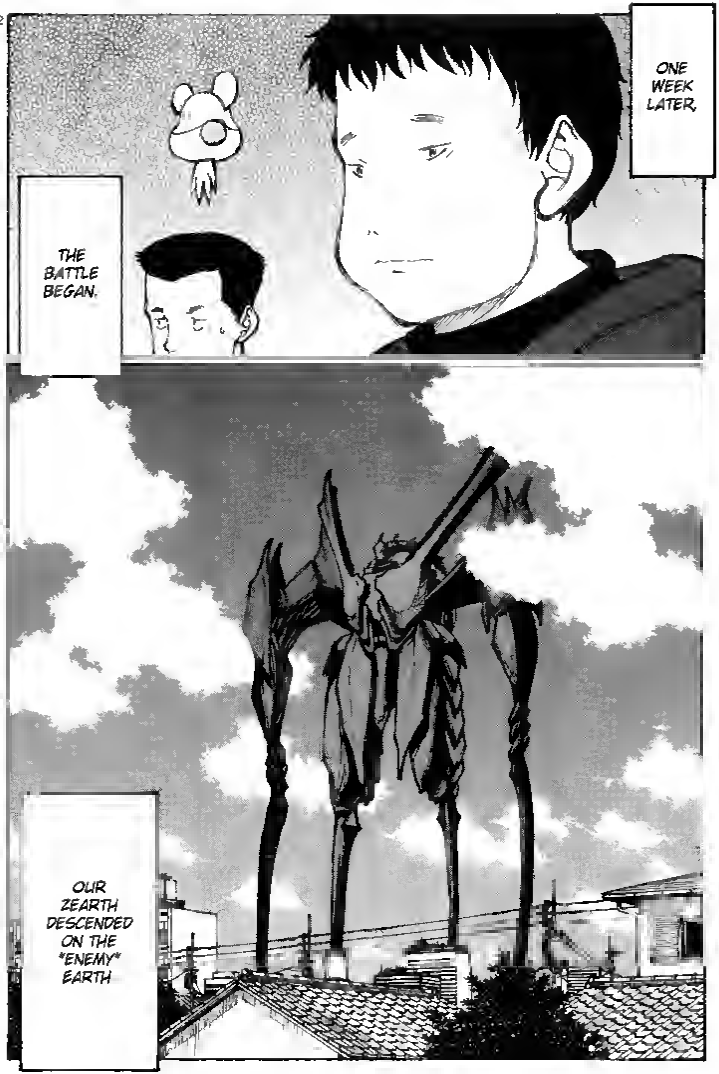
FOR BEING MORE BLUNT THAN I NEEDED TO BE
I APOLOGIZE,


THEN YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH ME
BUT IF IT DOESN'T CHANGE MY WAY OF THINKING,

AND STILL DIE, THEN I HAVE NO PROBLEM WHATSOEVER.
IF YOU FIGHT SERIOUSLY,

WELL,


IT WILL FORCE MY HAND.
BUT IF YOU TRY TO WASTE THE LIFE YOU WERE GIVEN,



CHAPTER 31/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

OUR ENEMIES ARE HUMANS TOO, FELLOW EARTHLINGS.
I JUST COULDN'T FORCE MYSELF TO FIGHT THEM.
IT MEANS, BASICALLY, THAT WE WILL LOSE.
BUT THERE WAS STILL ONE THING I WANTED TO TRY.
DESPITE THE MISGIVINGS IN HIS HEART... THE FIGHT WILL BEGIN!!
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Bokurano

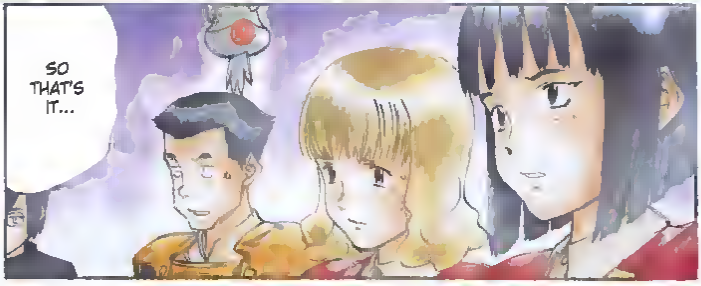
SURROUNDED BY HIS COMPANIONS IN THEIR COMBAT SUITS,
THE PILOT KIRIE HEADS TO BATTLE IN HIS PLAINCLOTHES...

ぼくらの

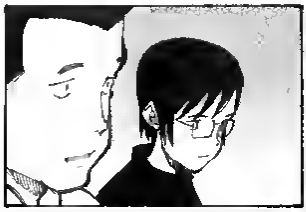
鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

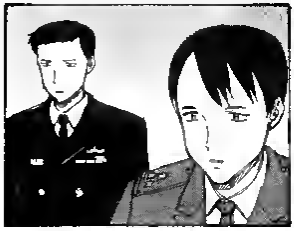
CHAPTER 32
YOSUKE KIRIE (4)

Bokurano Vol.5
on sale 6/30!!
詳しくは35ページにて!


SO THAT'S IT...

I'M LEAVING THIS UP TO YOU, KIRIE.
SOMEONE'S RIDING IN THAT THING, TOO.
5
I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD IT AGAINST YOU
NO MATTER WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO DO,
BUT...
THANKS
KANJI...

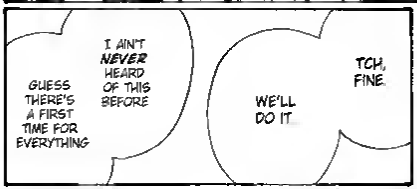


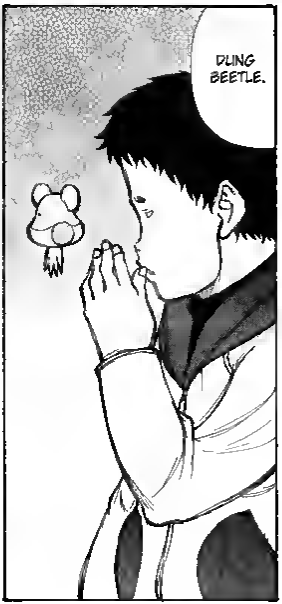


YOU MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO FORGIVE WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...

6

I MEAN ARE YOU REALLY THAT STUPID?
ARE YOU INSANE?


GUESS THERE'S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING
I AIN'T NEVER HEARD OF THIS BEFORE
WE'LL DO IT
TCH, FINE


DUNG BEETLE.

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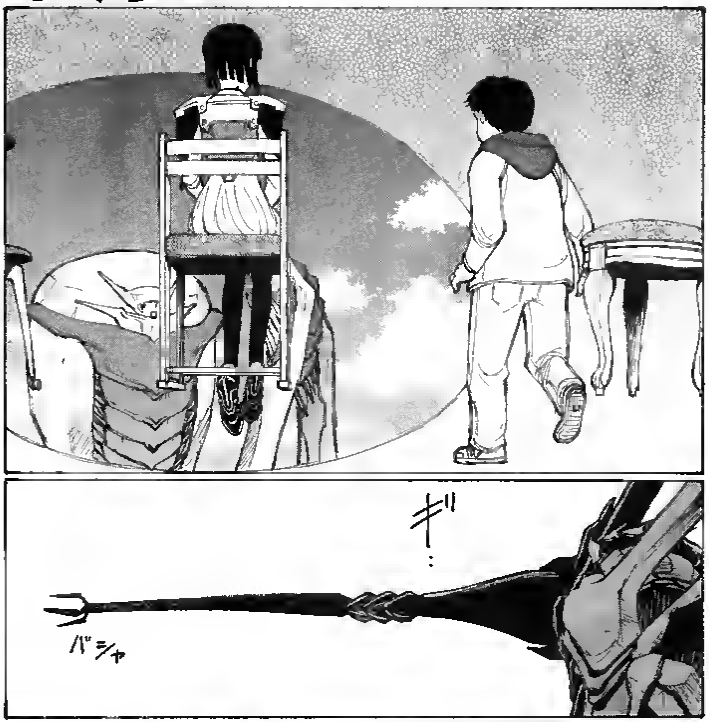
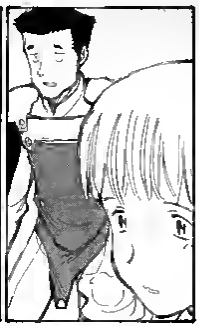
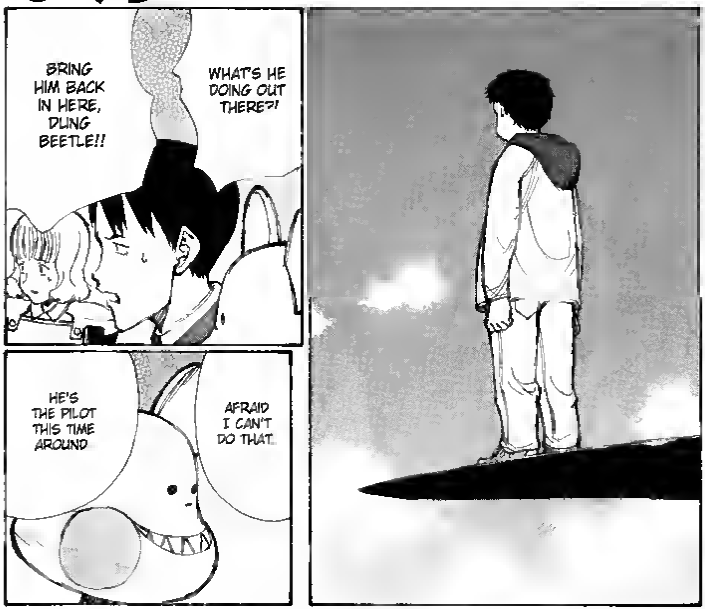
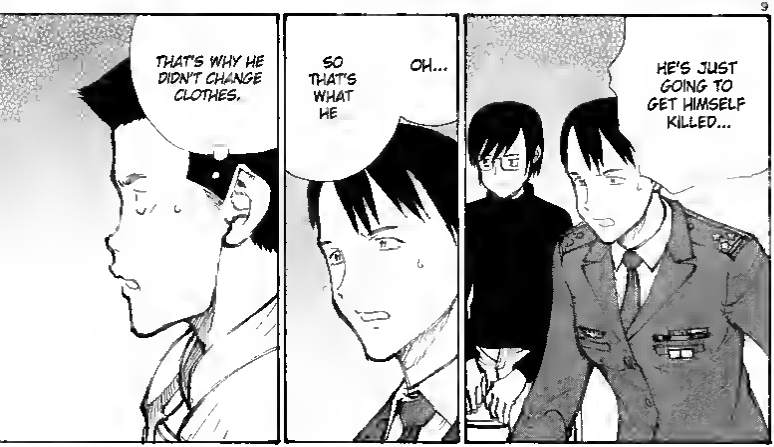
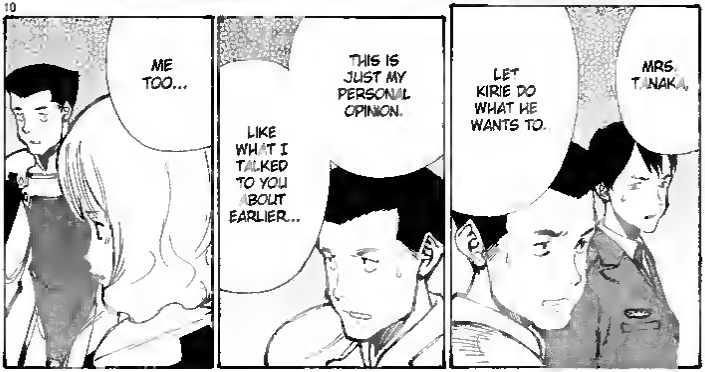


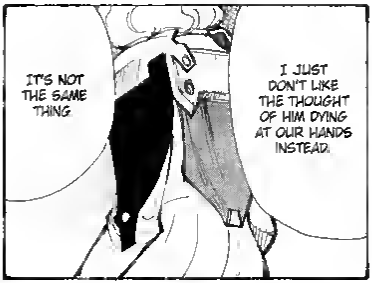


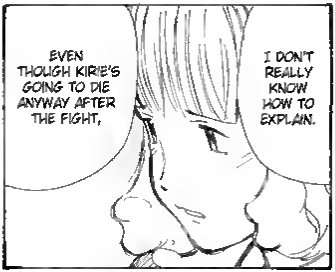
WHERE'D HE GO?!
KIRIE?!
OH...
OUT THERE


BRING HIM BACK IN HERE, DUNG BEETLE!!
WHAT'S HE DOING OUT THERE?!
HE'S THE PILOT THIS TIME AROUND
AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.


THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T CHANGE CLOTHES.
SO THAT'S WHAT HE
OH...
HE'S JUST GOING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED...

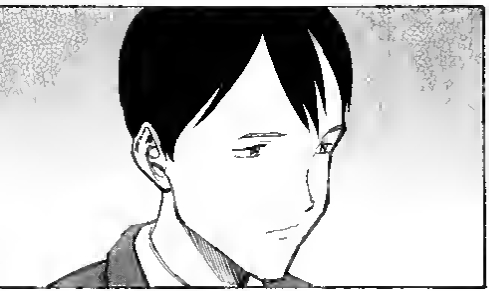

MRS. TANAKA,
LET KIRIE DO WHAT HE WANTS TO.
THIS IS JUST MY PERSONAL OPINION.
LIKE WHAT I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT EARLIER...
ME TOO...

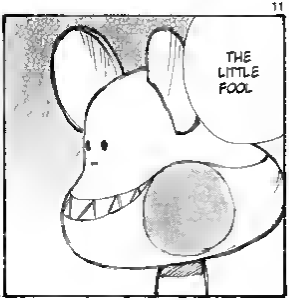

I JUST DON'T LIKE THE THOUGHT OF HIM DYING AT OUR HANDS INSTEAD.
IT'S NOT THE SAME THING.

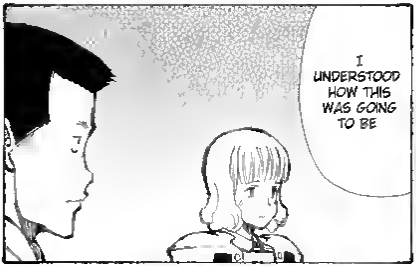

I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN.
EVEN THOUGH KIRIE'S GOING TO DIE ANYWAY AFTER THE FIGHT,

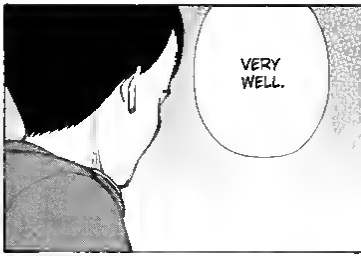
IT MIGHT BE SELFISH,
BUT WITHOUT KNOWING THAT KIND OF SELFISHNESS IS ALLOWED, WE CAN'T KEEP THE PEACE OF MIND NECESSARY TO FIGHT.

WE'RE GOING TO DIE EITHER WAY.
SO WHY NOT TAKE OUT 10 BILLION PEOPLE WITH YOU?

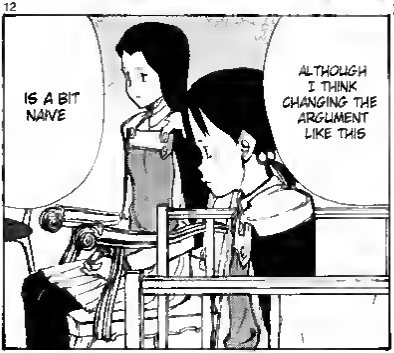



THE LITTLE FOOL


I UNDERSTOOD HOW THIS WAS GOING TO BE


VERY WELL.

IS WRONG.
ANY WORLD IN WHICH I HAVE TO KILL THIS CHILD TO SURVIVE


IS A BIT NAIVE
ALTHOUGH I THINK CHANGING THE ARGUMENT LIKE THIS

WE CREATED THE CHOICES AND ACTIONS THAT HE WILL TAKE.

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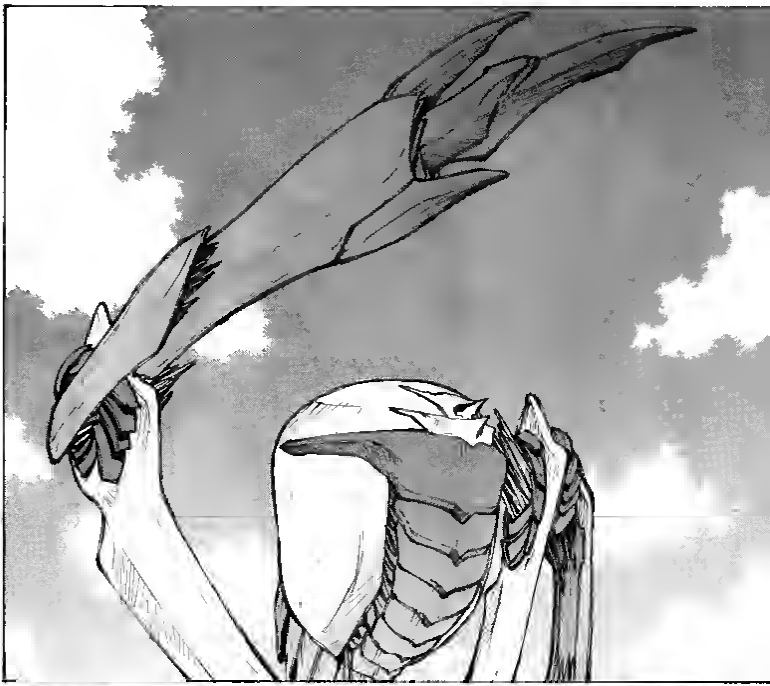
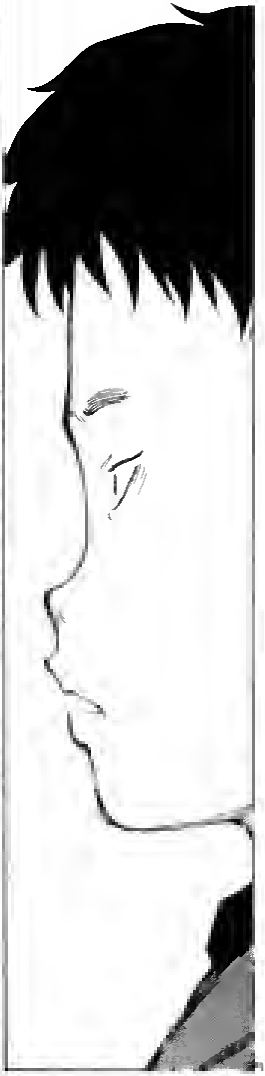
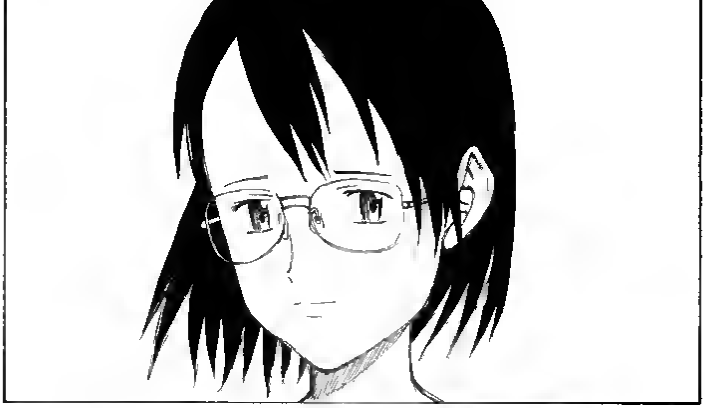
IT'S ALL UP TO THESE KIDS, ANYWAYS
I DON'T MIND
WHAT DO YOU THINK, CAPTAIN SEKI?
13
WE'RE NOT OF ANY USE AFTER ALL.
IN THE END,
IT WASN'T THE BEST THING I COULD HAVE THOUGHT OF
THIS WAS A LAST-MINUTE IDEA
BUT WHETHER I LOSE WITHOUT FIGHTING, OR THE ENEMIES BEAT US,

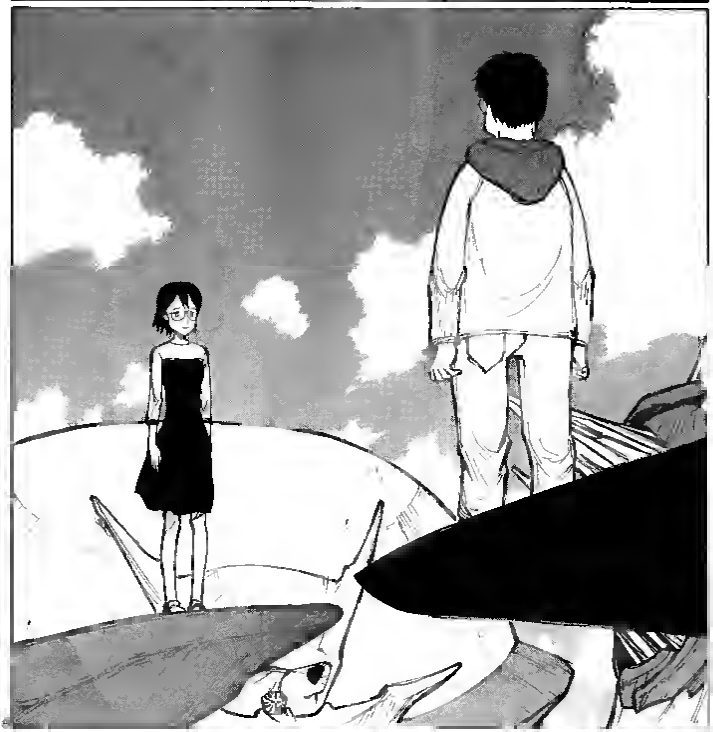
I JUST WANTED THE PEOPLE WE'D KILL TO KNOW ABOUT US.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS A GOOD ANSWER TO GIVE MRS. TANAKA OR NOT.

AH...







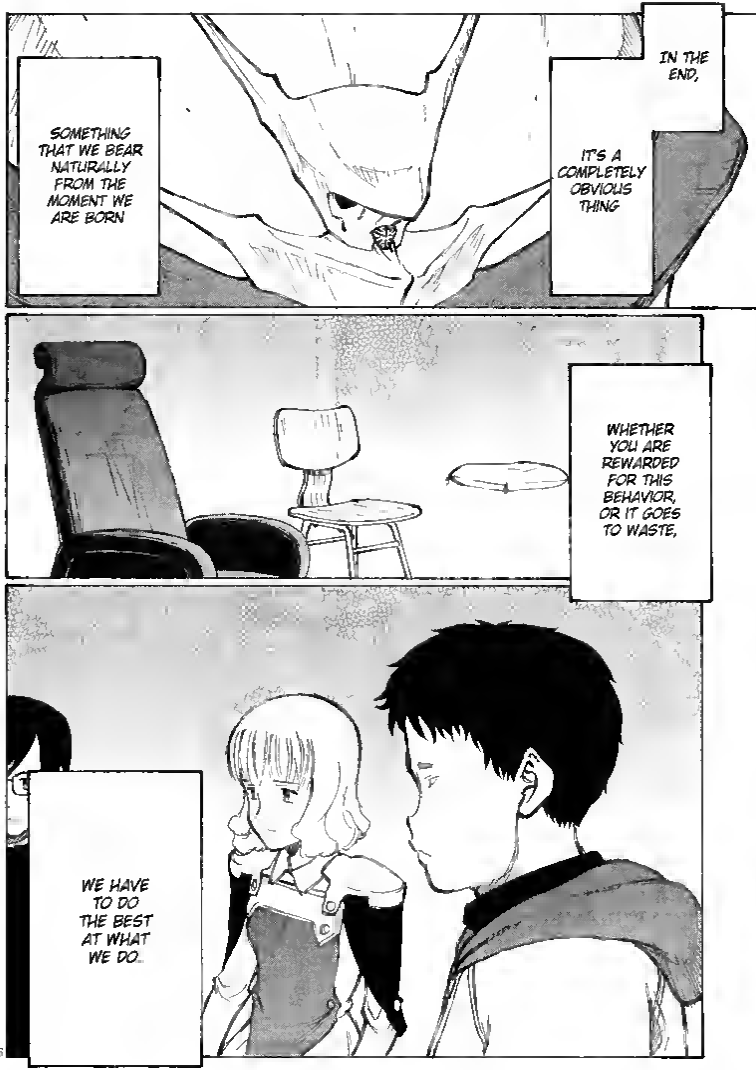


WHAT'S SHE GOING TO DO...?
WH.. WHY..
TH.. THE ENEMY PILOT CAME OUT, TOO?

BRING ME BACK.
DUNG BEETLE,
23
ヒュ…
KIRIE.
KIRIE!!

FIGHT.
I'LL...
FIGHT.
I CAN...
KIRIE...

THAT'S IT.
I SEE
ALL WORLDS ARE THE SAME
IF THE REMAINING WORLD MUST BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LOST ONE,
IF ALL WORLDS ARE THE SAME,
THIS IS COURTESY TOWARD THE WINNERS, AND COURTESY TOWARD THE LOSERS
THAT'S WHY WE NEED TO FIGHT, WIN OR LOSE.
THEN I THINK THE LOST WORLD NEEDS TO BE WORTH THE RESPONSIBILITY THE REMAINING WORLD WILL BEAR.


IN THE END,
IT'S A COMPLETELY OBVIOUS THING
SOMETHING THAT WE BEAR NATURALLY FROM THE MOMENT WE ARE BORN
WHETHER YOU ARE REWARDED FOR THIS BEHAVIOR, OR IT GOES TO WASTE,
WE HAVE TO DO THE BEST AT WHAT WE DO...

ドス
ドス

KAZU...
I MEAN,

KAZU CAN'T DIE.
KAZU WON'T DIE.
WHETHER I WIN OR LOSE,
AND I WANT THE KAZU I KNOW
TO BEAR THAT KARMA AND RESPON-SIBILITY.
THAT'S WHY I'LL FIGHT.

IF, SOMEDAY,
THERE COMES A TIME WHEN YOU CAN TALK ABOUT IT,
PLEASE TELL MY COUSIN,
KAZUKO MOTOYAMA, ABOUT ME

I'M SURE SHE'LL UNDERSTAND.

CHAPTER 32/END

MONTHLY
月刊イッキ
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(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

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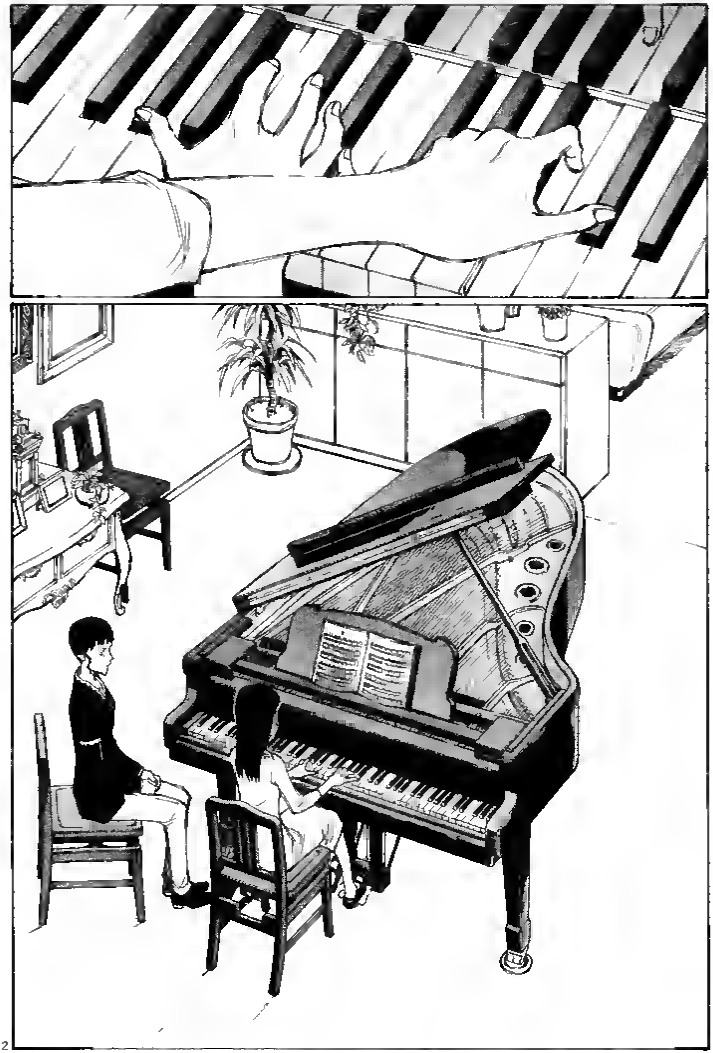
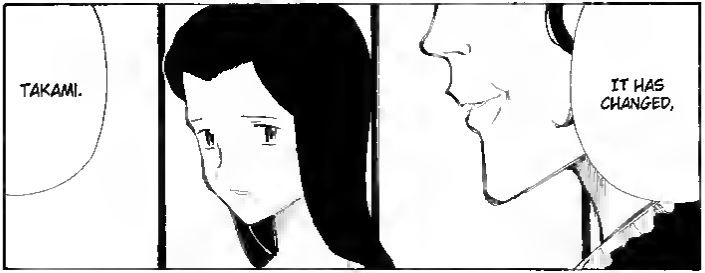
CHAPTER 33
TAKAMI KOMODA (1)

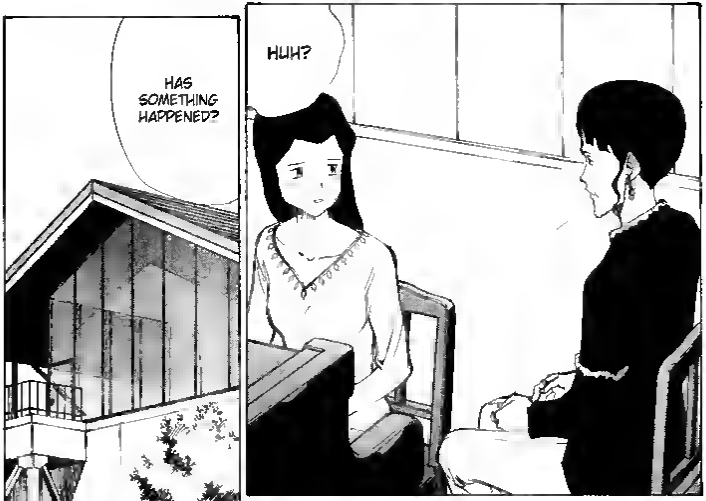
THE NEWEST PILOT IS A GIRL WITH A MILITARY MAN FOR A FATHER...

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro



YOUR SOUND.


TAKAMI.
IT HAS CHANGED,


HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
HUH?

BY KUHLAU?
SONATINE?
SONATINE.
WHAT'S MISS KOMODA GOING TO PLAY AT THE RECITAL?
BUT IT'S STILL A GOOD SONG.
USUALLY WHEN YOU THINK "SONATINE," IT'S KUHLAU OR CLEMENTI.
I DON'T KNOW IT.
NO, RAVEL.
4
BUT IT ALWAYS SOUNDS KIND OF BORING.
YOU KNOW, SHE'S REALLY GOOD AT PIANO,
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A SONATINA?
IT SOUNDED REALLY HARD TO PLAY

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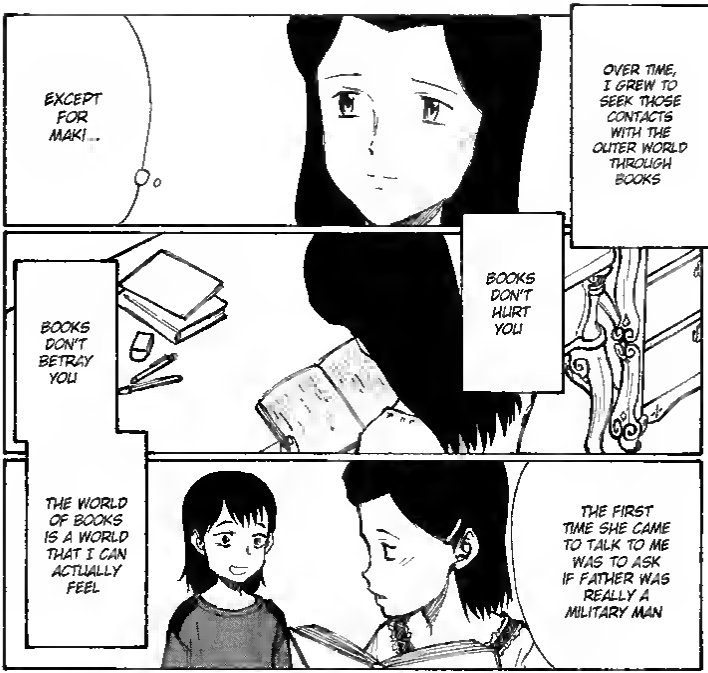
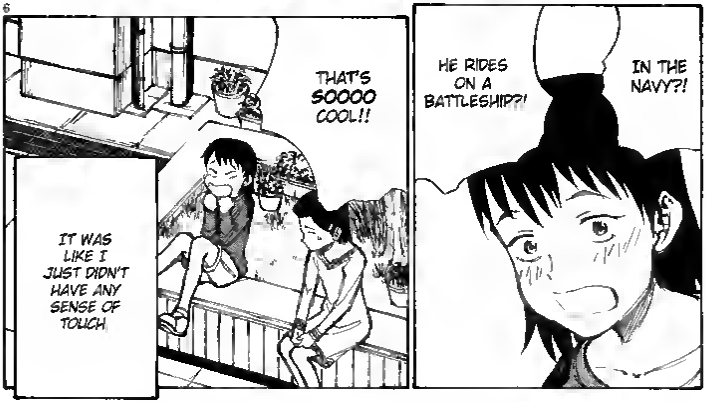
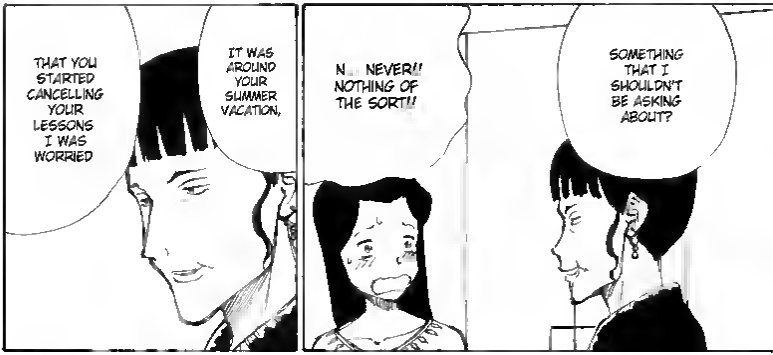
I BELIEVE THAT I HAVE LIVED PASSIVELY IN ALL ASPECTS OF MY LIFE TO TODAY.
ALL MY INTERACTIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD FEEL SHALLOW.
WHEN I WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL,
I WAS MOSTLY IGNORED BY THE REST OF MY CLASS FOR HAVING A FATHER IN THE MILITARY.
I WAS ALSO LIGHTLY PICKED ON.
EVEN THINGS THAT I COULD EASILY SHRUG OFF NOW,
WEREN'T SUCH A SMALL DEAL TO ME BACK THEN

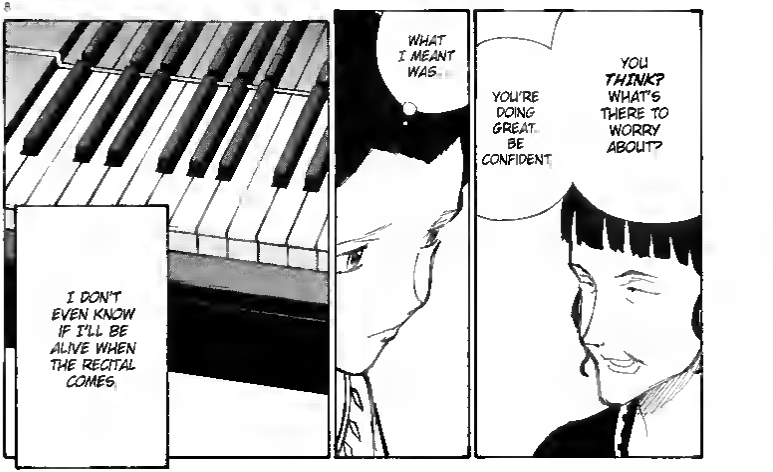

EXCEPT FOR MAKI...
OVER TIME, I GREW TO SEEK THOSE CONTACTS WITH THE OUTER WORLD THROUGH BOOKS
BOOKS DON'T BETRAY YOU
BOOKS DON'T HURT YOU
THE WORLD OF BOOKS IS A WORLD THAT I CAN ACTUALLY FEEL
THE FIRST TIME SHE CAME TO TALK TO ME WAS TO ASK IF FATHER WAS REALLY A MILITARY MAN


IT WAS LIKE I JUST DIDN'T HAVE ANY SENSE OF TOUCH
THAT'S SOOOO COOL!!
HE RIDES ON A BATTLESHIP?!
IN THE NAVY?!

IN FACT, IT'S BETTER THERE'S EMOTION IN IT.
NOT AT ALL.
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?!
D... DO YOU THINK SO?
7
BUT YOU PUT SO LITTLE EMOTION INTO YOUR PLAYING.
YOU ALWAYS HAD THE TALENT, TAKAMI,
WHAT HAPPENED?
PEOPLE OFTEN TELL ME THAT.
IN THE END, IT JUST MEANT THAT YOU HAD A PLAIN AND DARE I SAY, "BORING" STYLE.


THAT YOU STARTED CANCELLING YOUR LESSONS I WAS WORRIED
IT WAS AROUND YOUR SUMMER VACATION,
N... NEVER!! NOTHING OF THE SORT!!
SOMETHING THAT I SHOULDN'T BE ASKING ABOUT?

I... I THINK...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL BE FINE FOR THE RECITAL


I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF I'LL BE ALIVE WHEN THE RECITAL COMES.
WHAT I MEANT WAS...
YOU'RE DOING GREAT. BE CONFIDENT.
YOU THINK? WHAT'S THERE TO WORRY ABOUT?

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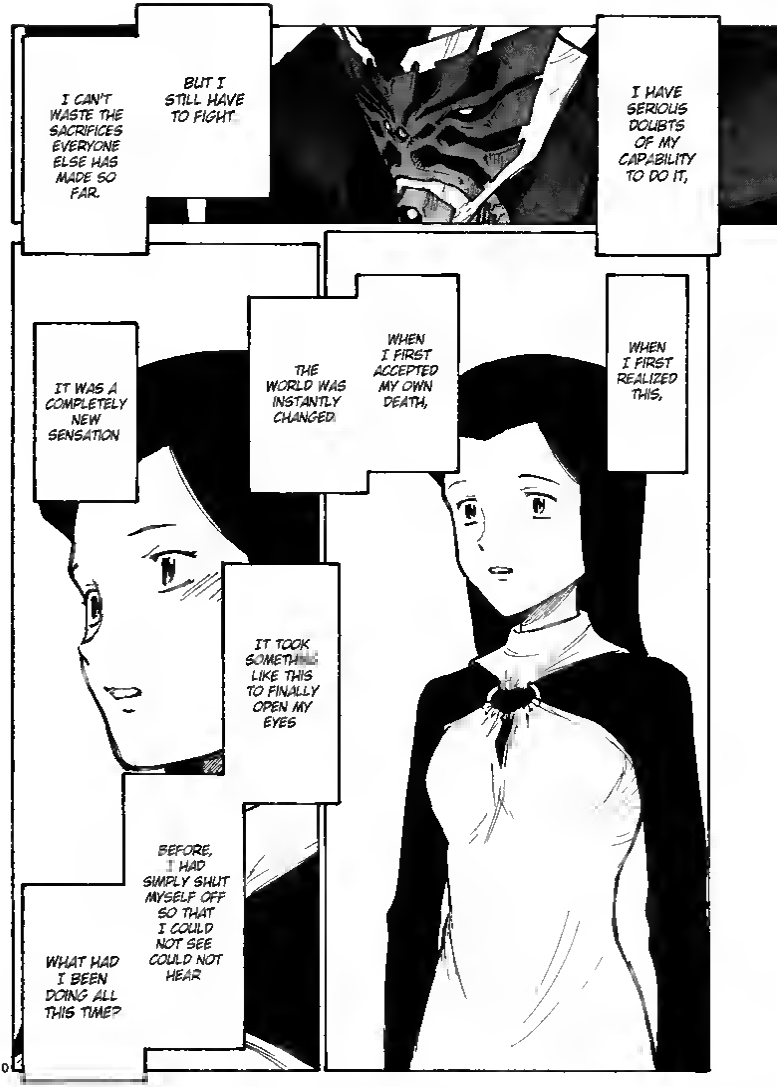
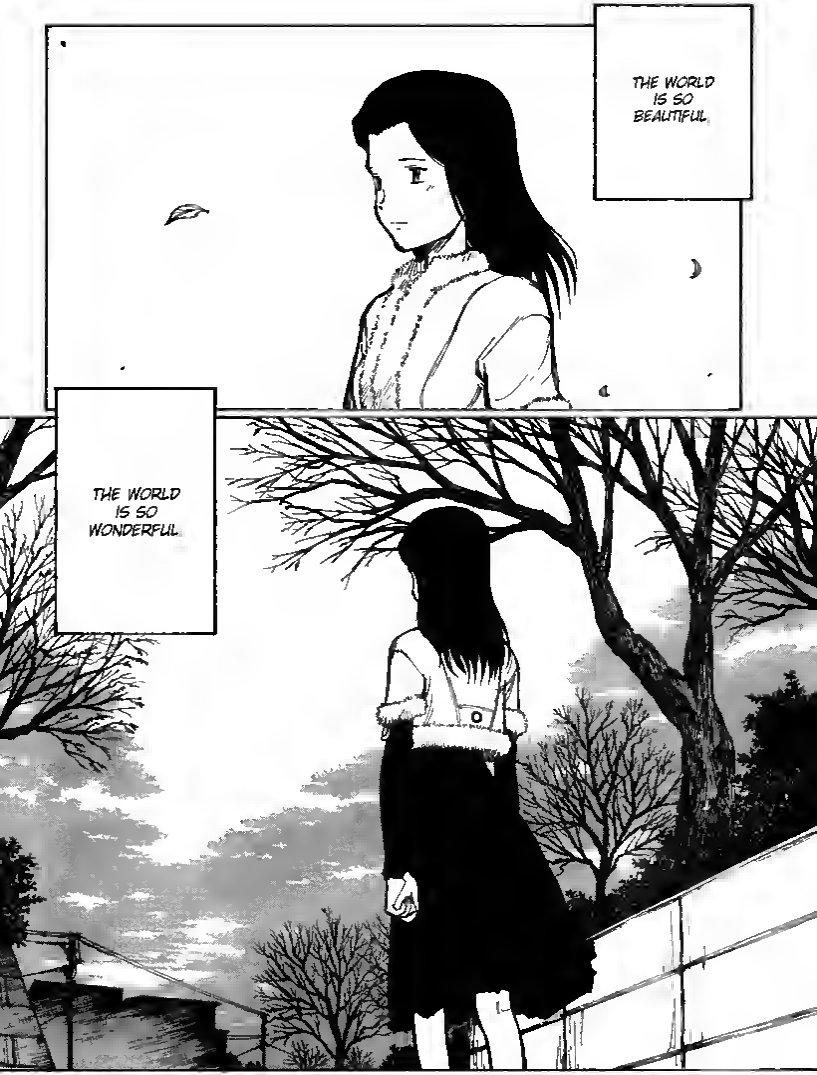
WHEN MAKI FOUGHT,
I MADE UP MY MIND
OF COURSE, I AM AFRAID OF DEATH
THE LAST THING I WANT IS TO DIE
BUT THERE'S NO USE IN WHINING ABOUT THAT NOW
MAKI'S ALREADY DEAD.
MAKI DIED TO SAVE OUR WORLD.


I CAN'T WASTE THE SACRIFICES EVERYONE ELSE HAS MADE SO FAR.
BUT I STILL HAVE TO FIGHT
I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS OF MY CAPABILITY TO DO IT,
IT WAS A COMPLETELY NEW SENSATION
THE WORLD WAS INSTANTLY CHANGED
WHEN I FIRST ACCEPTED MY OWN DEATH,
WHEN I FIRST REALIZED THIS,
IT TOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS TO FINALLY OPEN MY EYES
BEFORE, I HAD SIMPLY SHUT MYSELF OFF SO THAT I COULD NOT SEE COULD NOT HEAR
WHAT HAD I BEEN DOING ALL THIS TIME?

THEY WERE JUST A TINY PART OF IT, IN WRITING
BOOKS WERE NOT THE WORLD ITSELF.
THAT'S WHY THEY NEVER HURT ME. I WAS INSULATED FROM THE TRUTH.
THEY WERE JUST PIECES OF IT FILTERED THROUGH ANOTHER PERSON'S MIND.
AND THEY WEREN'T THE WORLD AS I FACED IT DIRECTLY.
AND THE PIANO.
AN INSTRUMENT THAT I HAD ONLY USED TO MAKE SOUNDS.
BUT IT'S NOT.

EVERY TIME I PLAY THE KEYS,
EVERY TIME I SPEAK TO THE PIANO,
THE PIANO SPEAKS BACK TO ME
UNTIL NOW, I HAD SIMPLY NEVER LISTENED TO THE SOUND
OF THE PIANO SPEAKING.
AFTER THAT, I BEGAN THE HABIT OF WALKING THROUGH TOWN

THE WORLD THAT HAD ALWAYS SEEMED SO PALE AND FLAT
I TRIED ONCE MORE TO FULLY EXPERIENCE AND ASSIMILATE
THE WORLD AROUND ME
ALL THOSE THINGS THAT HAD BEEN SO VAGUE THE THINGS I SAW I HEARD I FELT I SMELLED
THEY ALL SPOKE TO ME NOW
I AM CONNECTED TO THE WORLD
AND WHAT AN EXQUISITE WORLD IT IS


THE WORLD IS SO BEAUTIFUL
THE WORLD IS SO WONDERFUL

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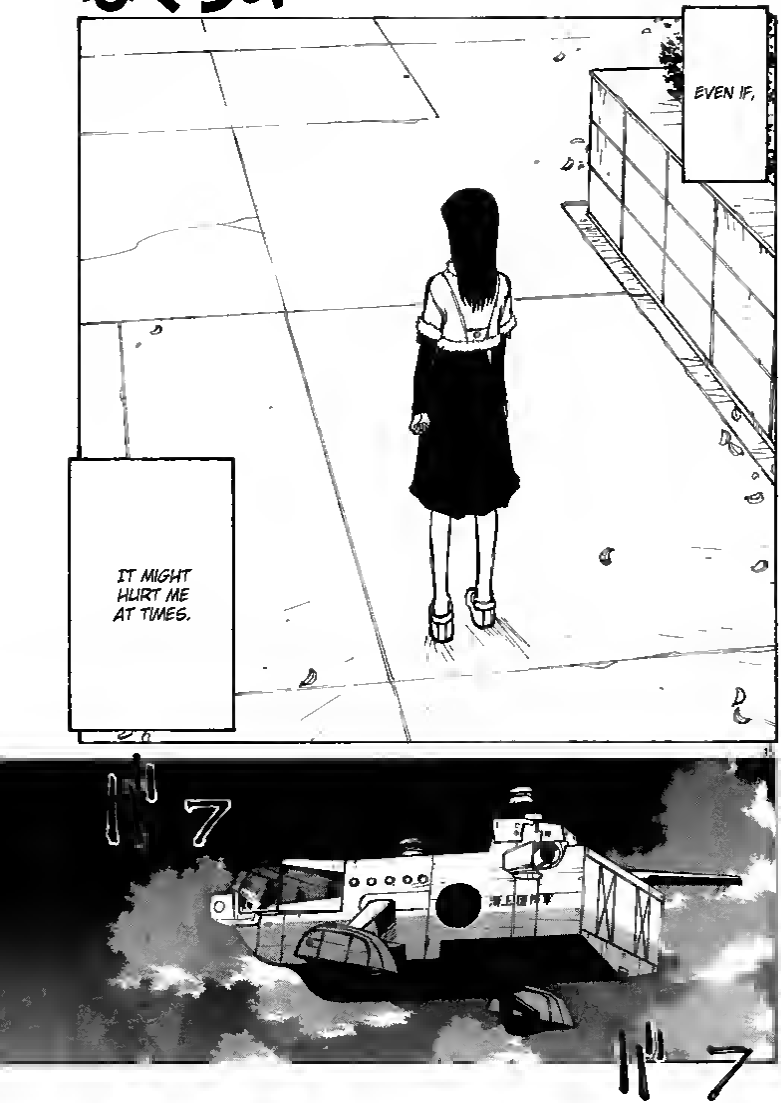
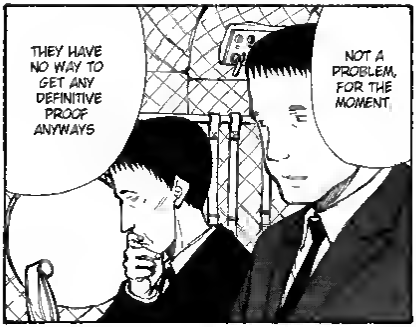
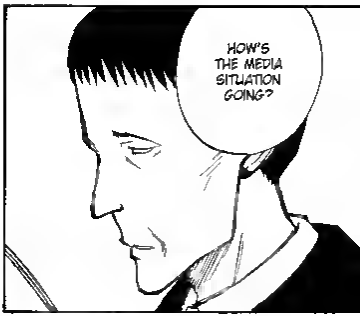
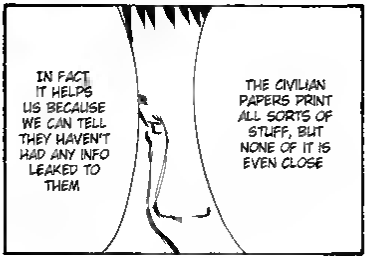


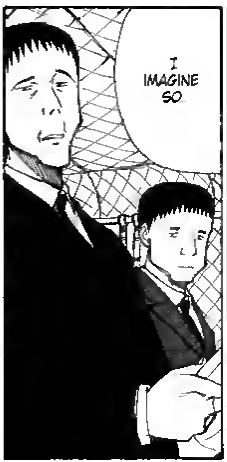

THEY HAVE NO WAY TO GET ANY DEFINITIVE PROOF ANYWAYS
NOT A PROBLEM, FOR THE MOMENT.


HOW'S THE MEDIA SITUATION GOING?

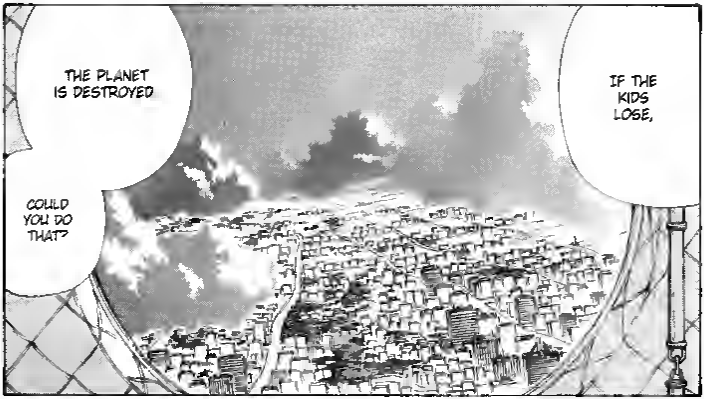
IF ONLY IT STAYS THIS EASY


IN FACT IT HELPS US BECAUSE WE CAN TELL THEY HAVEN'T HAD ANY INFO LEAKED TO THEM
THE CIVILIAN PAPERS PRINT ALL SORTS OF STUFF, BUT NONE OF IT IS EVEN CLOSE

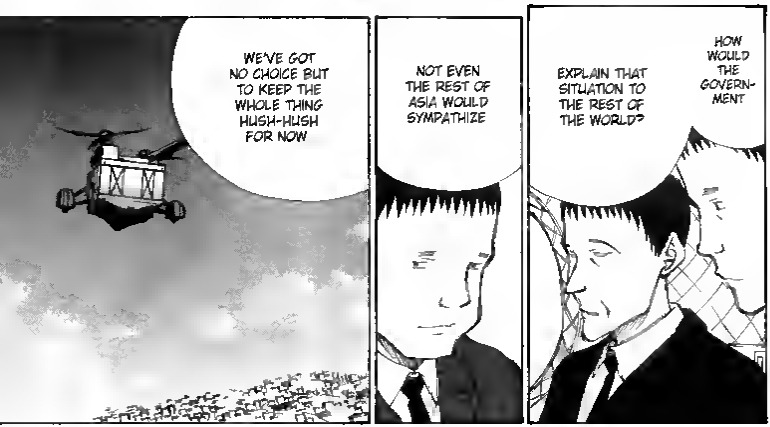
WHO COULD TELL THEM?

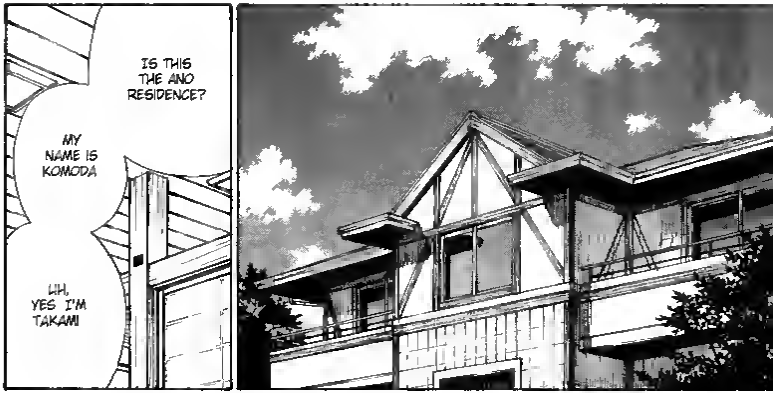

I IMAGINE SO.

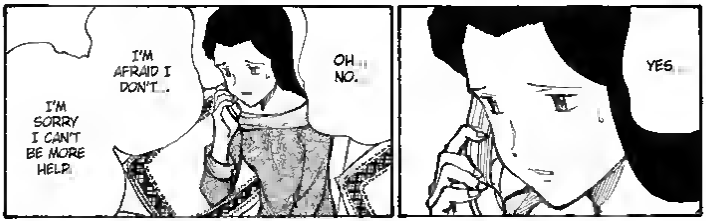
DO YOU SUPPOSE THE BRASS WANTS TO KEEP EVERYTHING UNDER WRAPS INDEFINITELY?

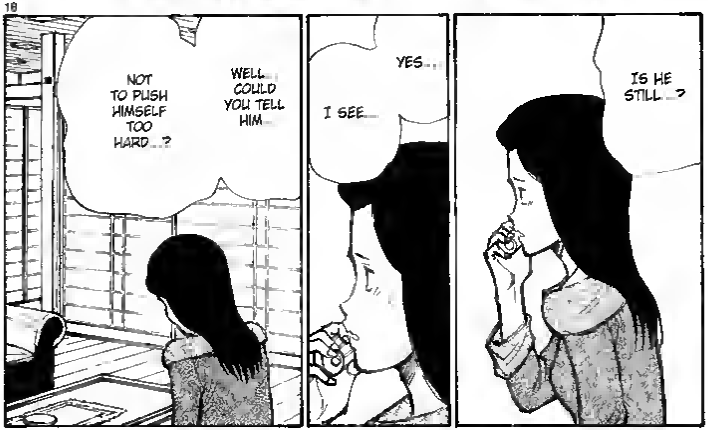

IF THE KIDS LOSE,
THE PLANET IS DESTROYED
COULD YOU DO THAT?

WHETHER THEY WIN OR LOSE,
THE ENTIRE WORLD WOULD INSTANTLY HATE YOU

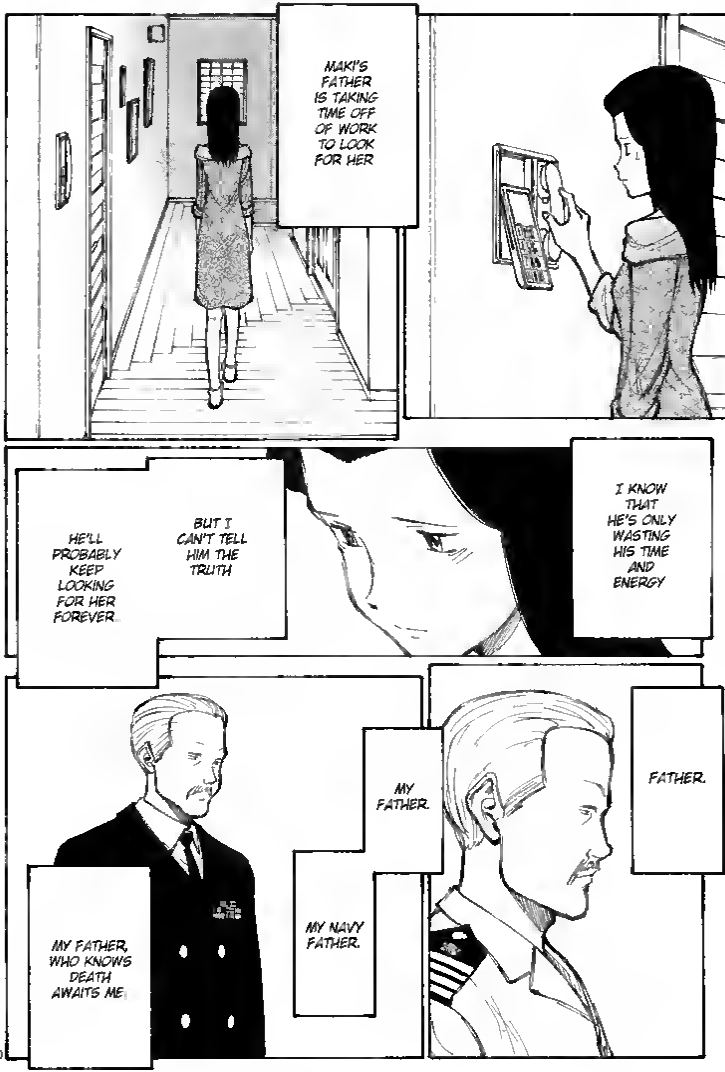

HOW WOULD THE GOVERNMENT EXPLAIN THAT SITUATION TO THE REST OF THE WORLD?
NOT EVEN THE REST OF ASIA WOULD SYMPATHIZE
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO KEEP THE WHOLE THING HUSH-HUSH FOR NOW


IS THIS THE ANO RESIDENCE?
MY NAME IS KOMODA
UH, YES I'M TAKAMI

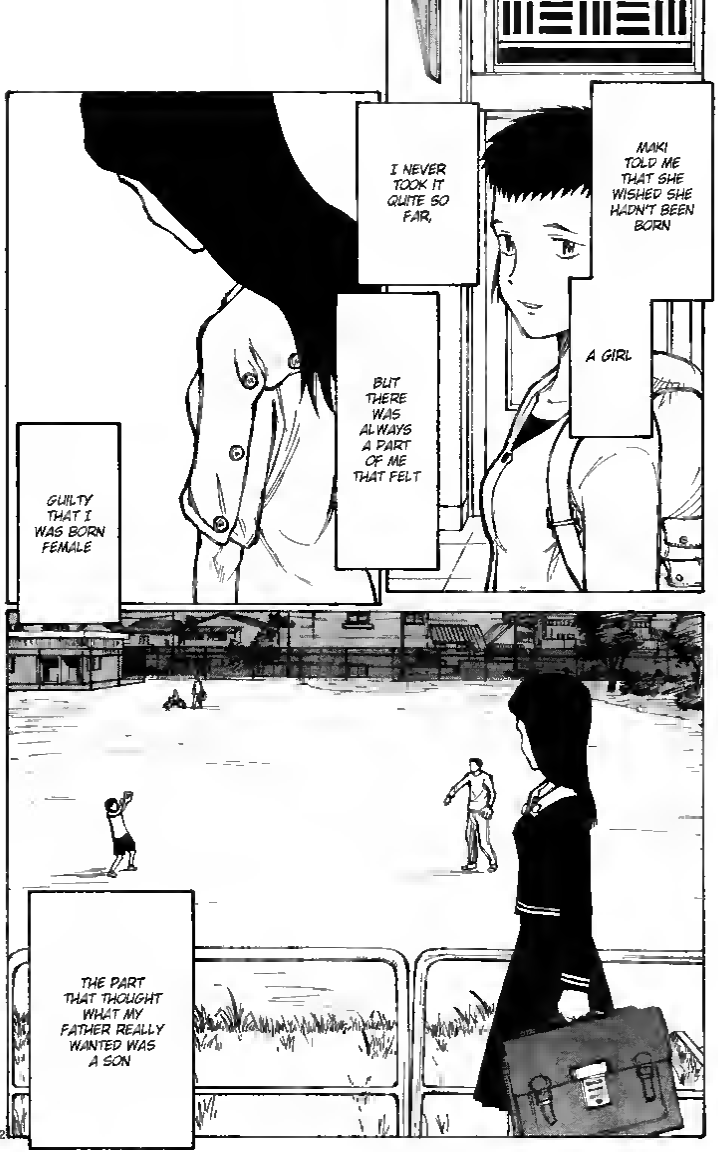

I'M AFRAID I DON'T...
I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE MORE HELP.
OH... NO.
YES...


NOT TO PUSH HIMSELF TOO HARD...?
WELL... COULD YOU TELL HIM...
I SEE...
YES...
IS HE STILL...?

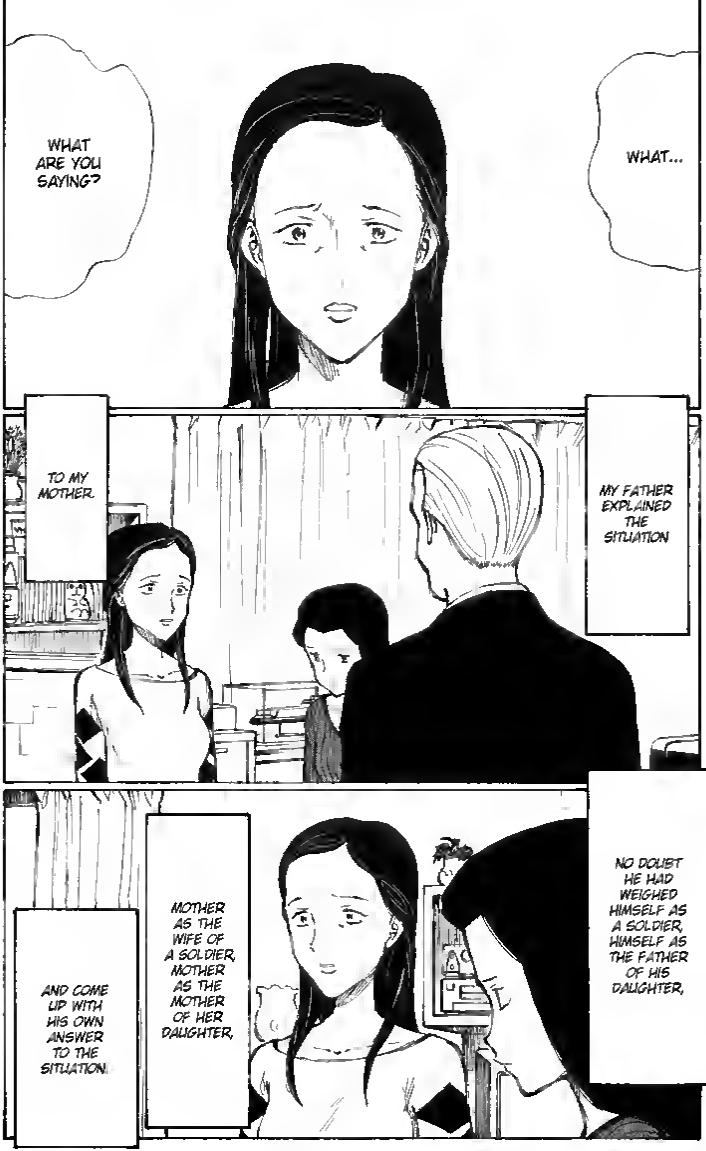
TO MY PIANO RECITAL ON SATURDAY... TWO DAYS FROM NOW
BUT I WAS WONDERING IF YOU MIGHT LIKE TO COME...
I REALIZE THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TIME TO ASK...
WELL...
OKAY...
BUT, ONLY IF YOU'D LIKE TO...
FOR MRS. MORI'S SUZUKAN CLASS...
YES...
GOODBYE
YES, T-THAT'S ALL...
THANK YOU, I APPRECIATE IT...

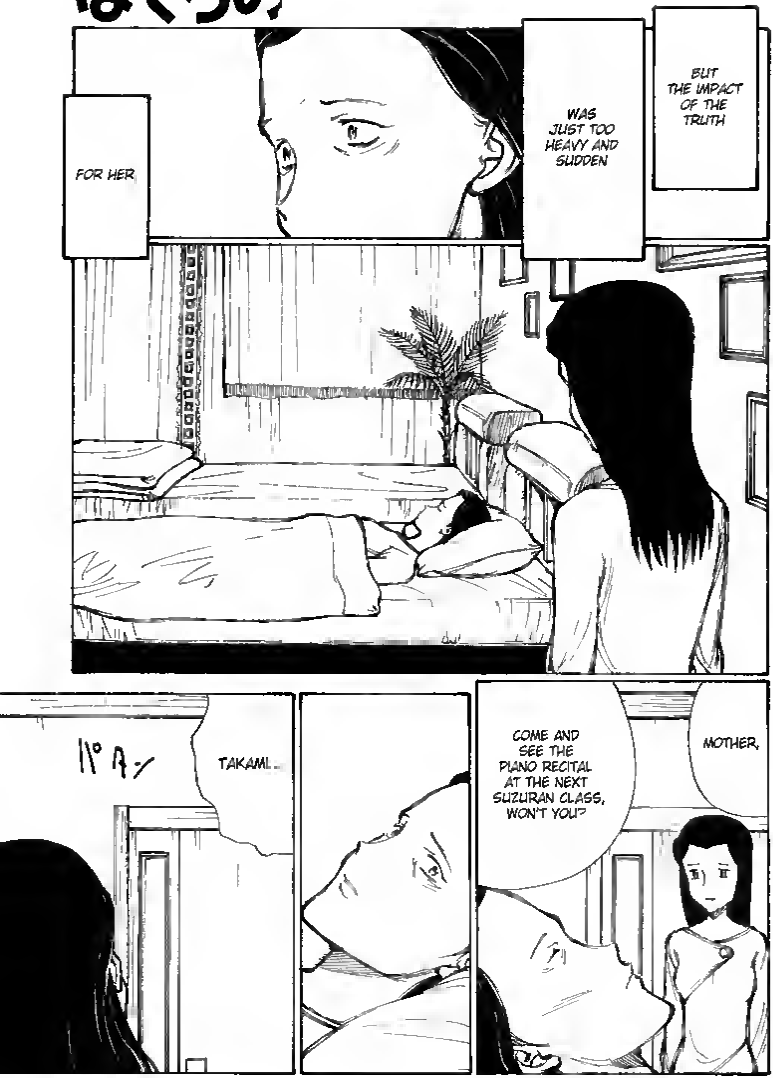

MAKI'S FATHER IS TAKING TIME OFF OF WORK TO LOOK FOR HER
I KNOW THAT HE'S ONLY WASTING HIS TIME AND ENERGY
BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THE TRUTH
HE'LL PROBABLY KEEP LOOKING FOR HER FOREVER.
FATHER.
MY FATHER.
MY NAVY FATHER.
MY FATHER, WHO KNOWS DEATH AWAITS ME.

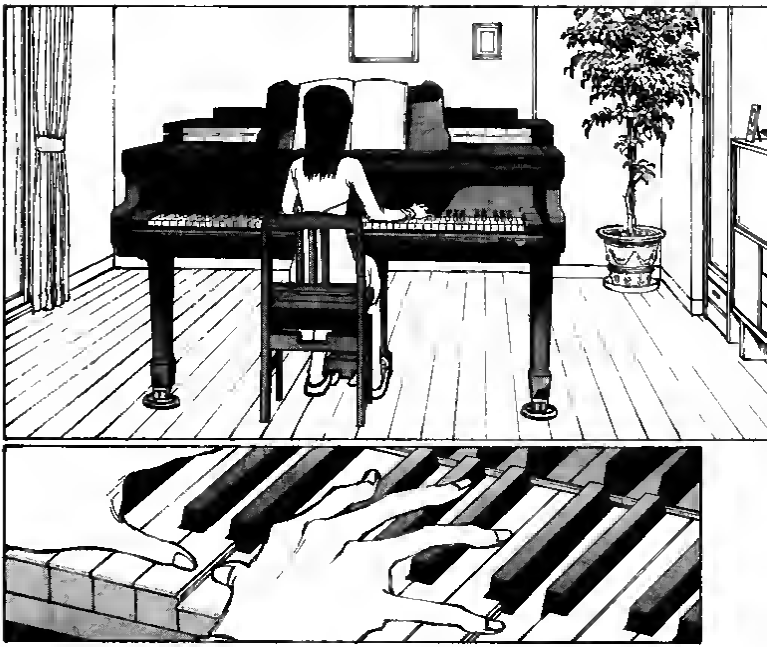
WHAT DOES HE THINK ABOUT ALL OF THAT?
I HAD ALWAYS WONDERED IF MY FATHER ACTUALLY HATED ME.
WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME, THE PASSIVE
FLAWED DAUGHTER
THE DAUGHTER WHO WOULD RATHER STAY IN THE HOUSE THAN GO OUTSIDE
HIS FEMALE PROGENY.

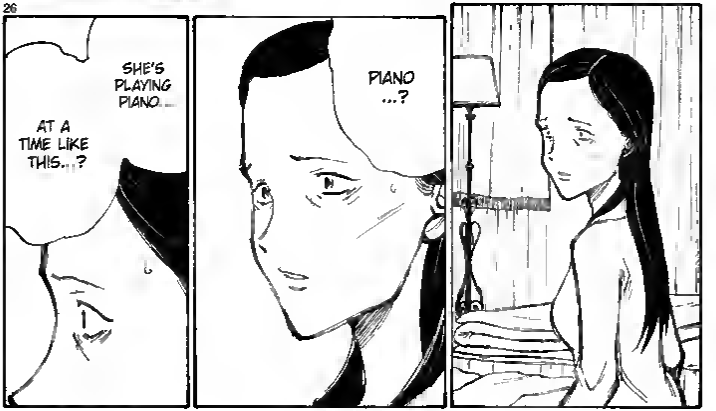

MAKI TOLD ME THAT SHE WISHED SHE HADN'T BEEN BORN
A GIRL
I NEVER TOOK IT QUITE SO FAR,
BUT THERE WAS ALWAYS A PART OF ME THAT FELT
GUILTY THAT I WAS BORN FEMALE
THE PART THAT THOUGHT WHAT MY FATHER REALLY WANTED WAS A SON

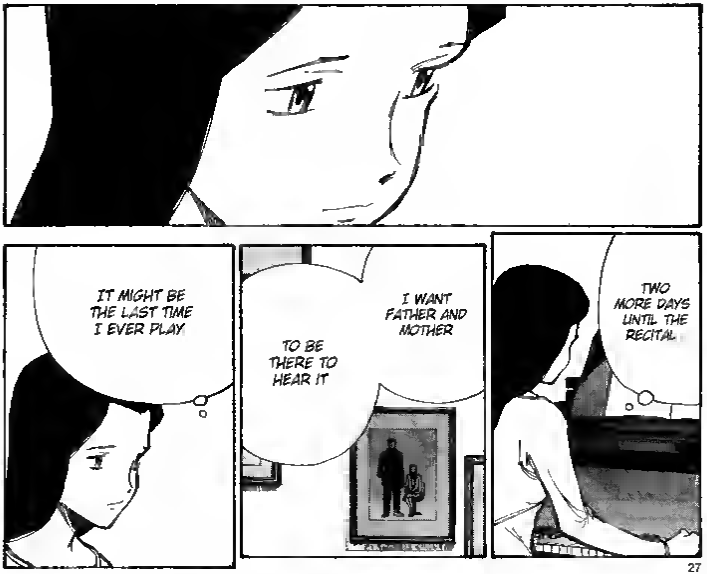
IS TURNING OUT IN A WAY THAT BENEFITS ME MOST OF ALL
MAYBE THIS SITUATION
AFTER ALL,
I GET
TO FIGHT TO SAVE THE WORLD.
THE NIGHT THAT KIRIE'S BATTLE WAS OVER AND I BECAME THE NEXT PILOT.
HE PROBABLY THINKS IT'S ONLY MY RIGHTFUL DUTY.
HOW DOES MY FATHER FEEL ABOUT THAT?

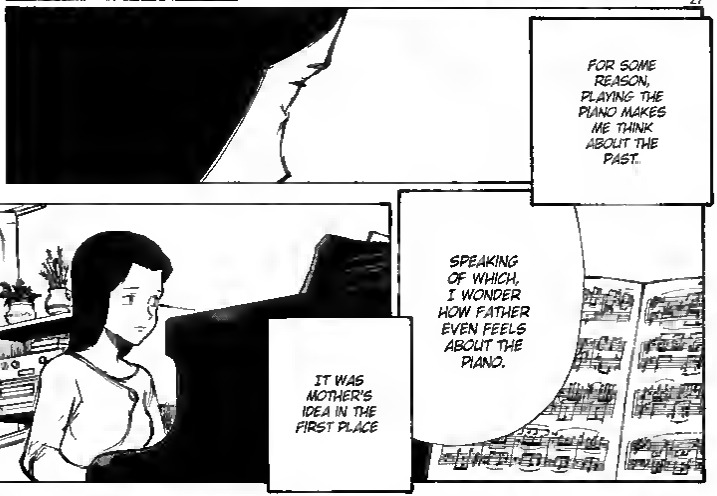

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
WHAT...
TO MY MOTHER.
MY FATHER EXPLAINED THE SITUATION
AND COME UP WITH HIS OWN ANSWER TO THE SITUATION.
MOTHER AS THE WIFE OF A SOLDIER, MOTHER AS THE MOTHER OF HER DAUGHTER,
NO DOUBT HE HAD WEIGHED HIMSELF AS A SOLDIER, HIMSELF AS THE FATHER OF HIS DAUGHTER,


FOR HER
WAS JUST TOO HEAVY AND SUDDEN
BUT THE IMPACT OF THE TRUTH
TAKAMI...
MOTHER,
COME AND SEE THE PIANO RECITAL AT THE NEXT SUZURAN CLASS, WON'T YOU?

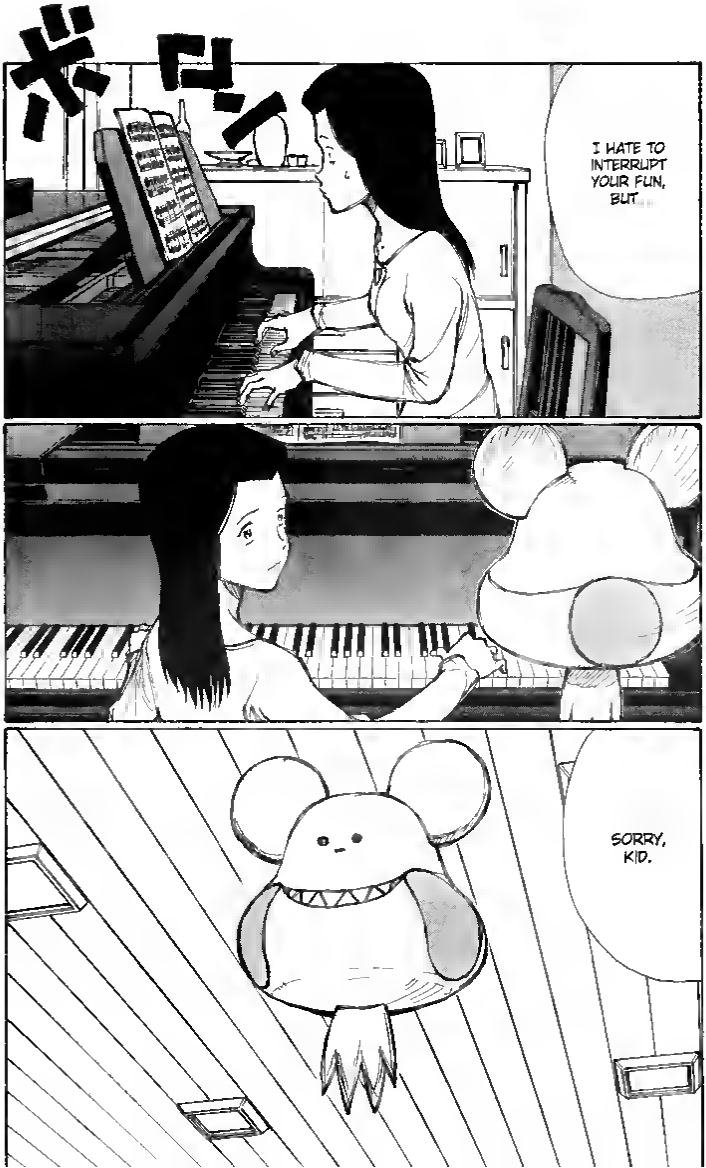


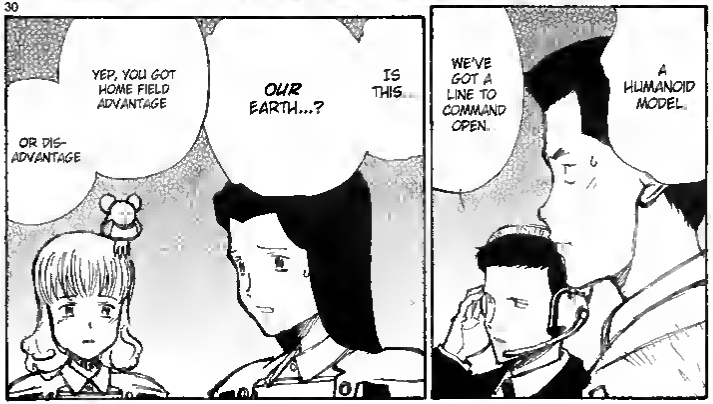

SHE'S PLAYING PIANO...
AT A TIME LIKE THIS...?
PIANO ...?

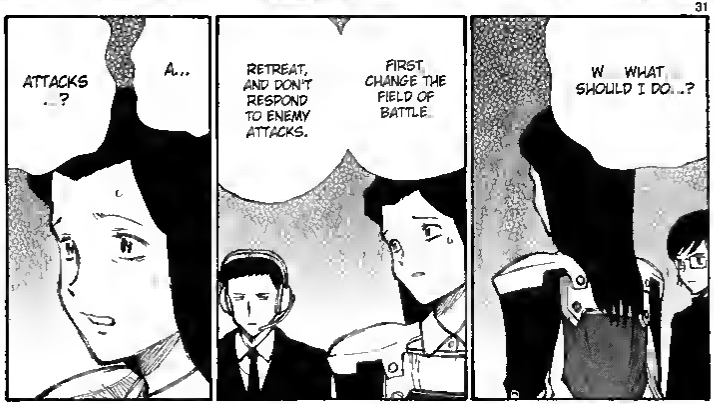

IT MIGHT BE THE LAST TIME I EVER PLAY
I WANT FATHER AND MOTHER TO BE THERE TO HEAR IT
TWO MORE DAYS UNTIL THE RECITAL


FOR SOME REASON, PLAYING THE PIANO MAKES ME THINK ABOUT THE PAST.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I WONDER HOW FATHER EVEN FEELS ABOUT THE PIANO.
IT WAS MOTHER'S IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE

FOR A SHORT TIME, HE EVEN TRIED TO PLAY A BIT, AS A MEANS OF INTERACTING WITH ME...
BUT,
HALFWAY THROUGH "PIANO FOR BEGINNERS," HE GAVE UP.
28
WHAT HAD HE SAID AT THE TIME...
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TIME HE'D EVER FAILED IN HIS LIFE
IT WAS ALMOST CUTE, IN A WAY.
MY FATHER, WHO WAS ALWAYS SO STRICT AND UNYIELDING...


ボロン
I HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR FUN, BUT...
SORRY, KID.


A HUMANOID MODEL.
WE'VE GOT A LINE TO COMMAND OPEN.
IS THIS... OUR EARTH...?
YEP, YOU GOT HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE
OR DIS-ADVANTAGE


W... WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
FIRST, CHANGE THE FIELD OF BATTLE.
RETREAT, AND DON'T RESPOND TO ENEMY ATTACKS.
A...
ATTACKS...?

ME...
B-BRUTE FORCE..?
ME...?
SO I GUESS YOU CAN JUST USE BRUTE FORCE...
SO FAR, ALL THE HUMANOID TYPES HAVEN'T REQUIRED A SPECIAL KIND OF ATTACK STRATEGY,
A-ALL RIGHT...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT.

CHAPTER 33/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

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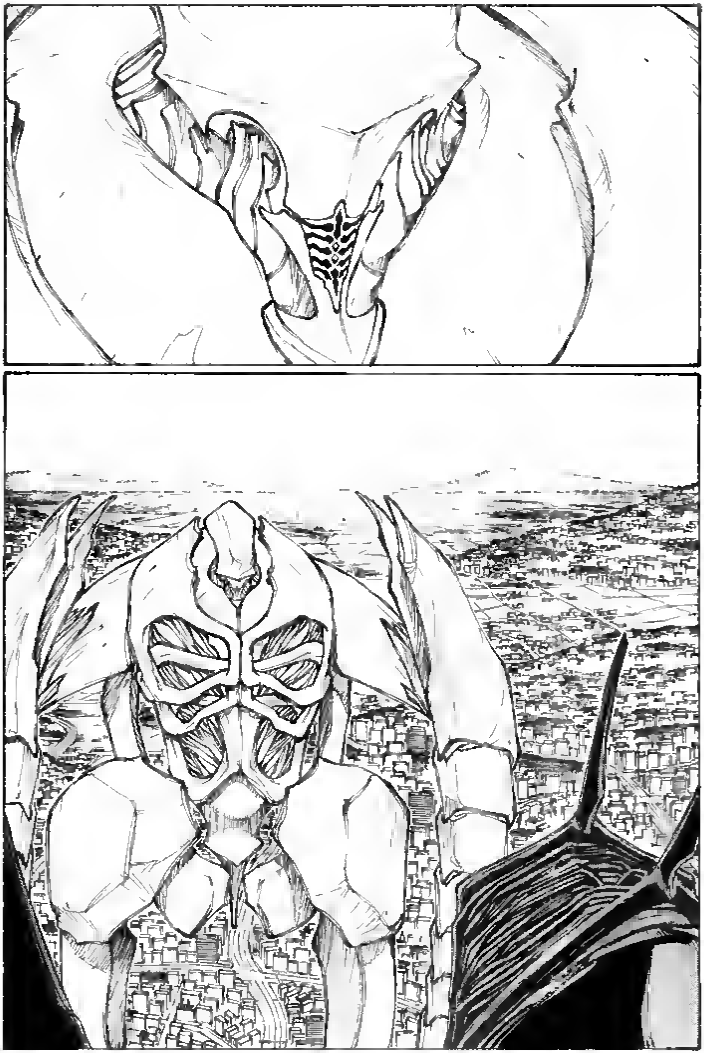
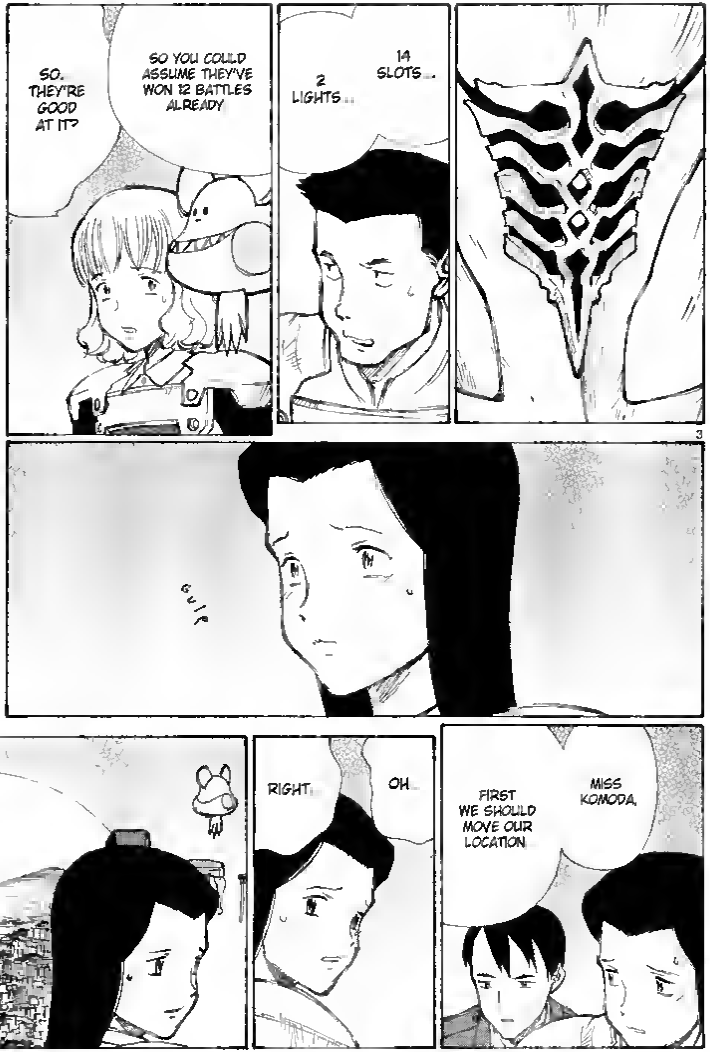
CHAPTER 34
TAKAMI KOMODA (2)

WHEN HER FRIEND FOUGHT AND DIED IN BATTLE, THE GIRL MADE UP HER MIND.

鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro




SO, THEY'RE GOOD AT IT?
SO YOU COULD ASSUME THEY'VE WON 12 BATTLES ALREADY
2 LIGHTS...
14 SLOTS...
3
GULP
RIGHT...
OH...
FIRST WE SHOULD MOVE OUR LOCATION.
MISS KOMODA,

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4
IS IT FOLLOWING
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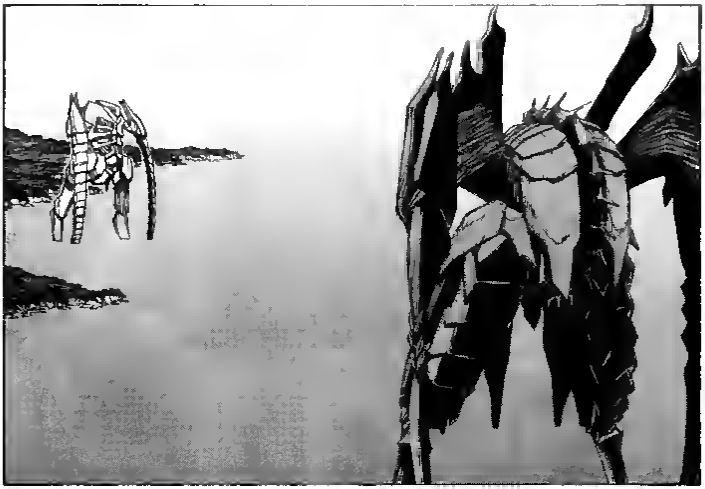
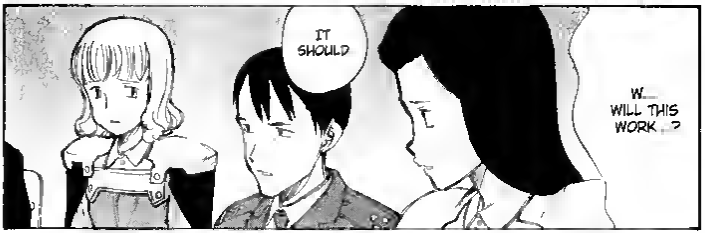
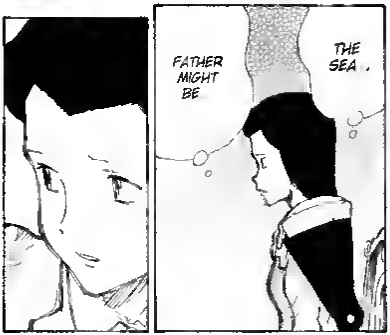
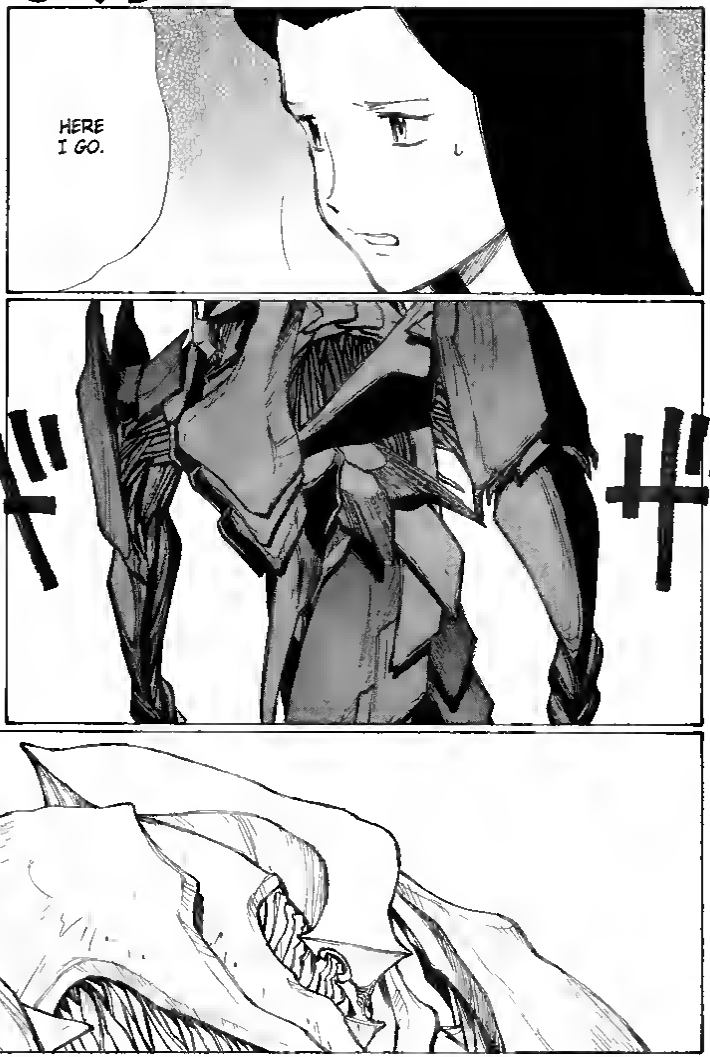
ドス



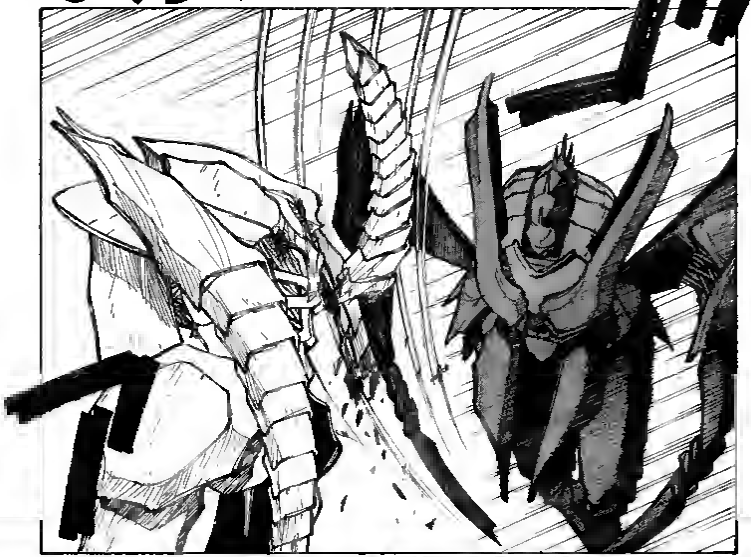

IT SHOULD
W... WILL THIS WORK...?


FATHER MIGHT BE
THE SEA.

THE NAGATO
THAT'S THE FLAGSHIP OF THE 1ST FLEET
HE'S ON THAT SHIP
OVER THERE
YES, HE IS
YOUR FATHER IS THERE


HERE
I GO.

I KNEW IT WOULD BE HARD TO PUNCH IT!!
バキャッ
バキャッ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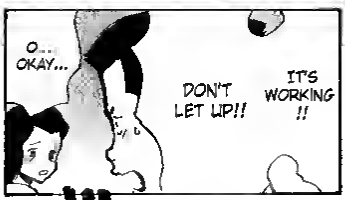
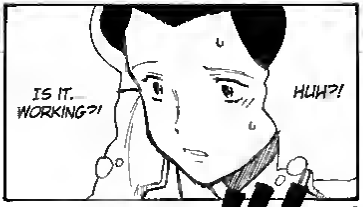
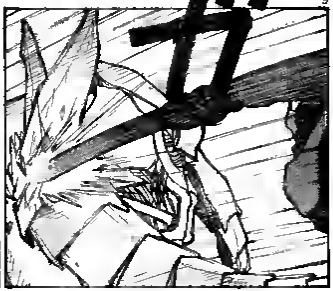

O... OKAY...
DON'T LET UP!!
IT'S WORKING !!


IS IT... WORKING?!
HUH?!

ミシ
ミシャ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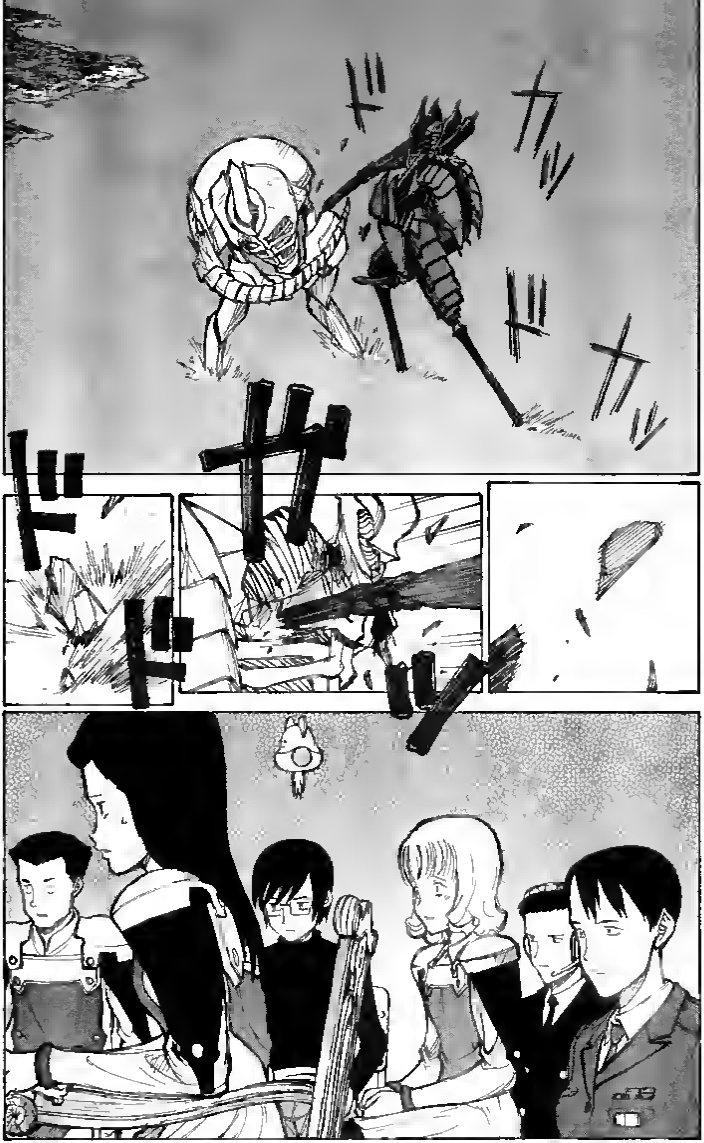
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カッ
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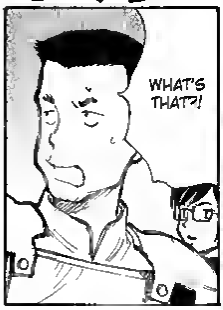
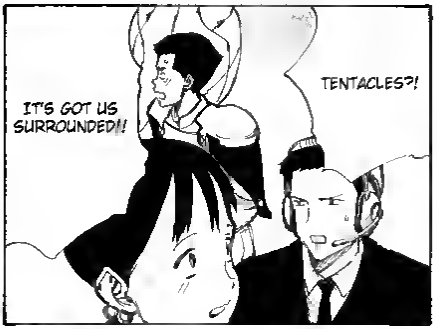
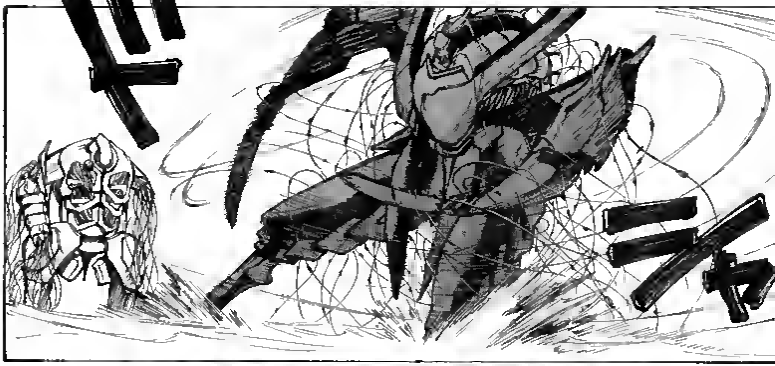
YES.
CAPTAIN TANAKA
THEY'RE HARDLY RESPONDING...
TOO STRANGE
I... I CAN DO THIS!!
ヒュー

HUH?!

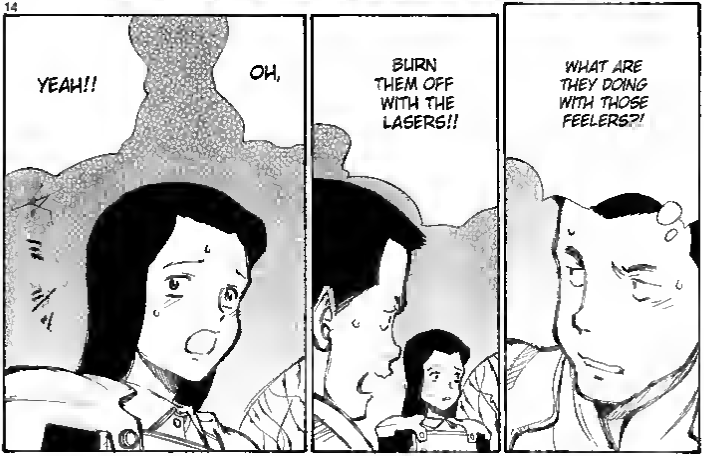

WHAT'S THAT?!

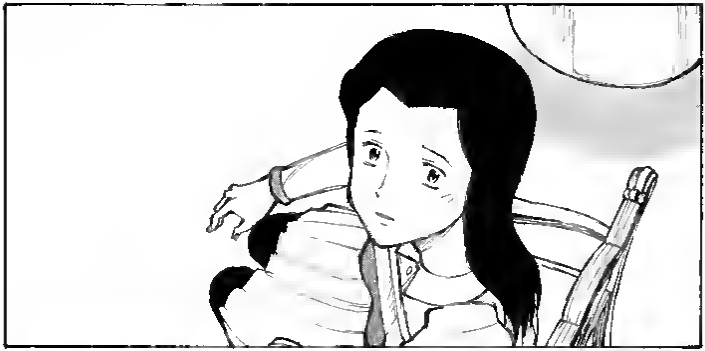
TRY TO DRIVE THEM OFF!!
MISS KOMODA!!

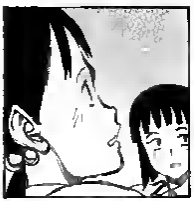

IT'S GOT US SURROUNDED!!
TENTACLES?!

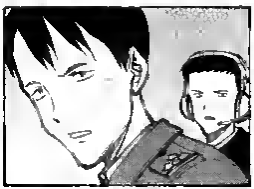


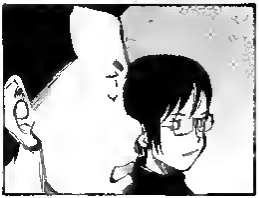
I CAN'T GET AWAY!!
IT'S NOT WORKING!!

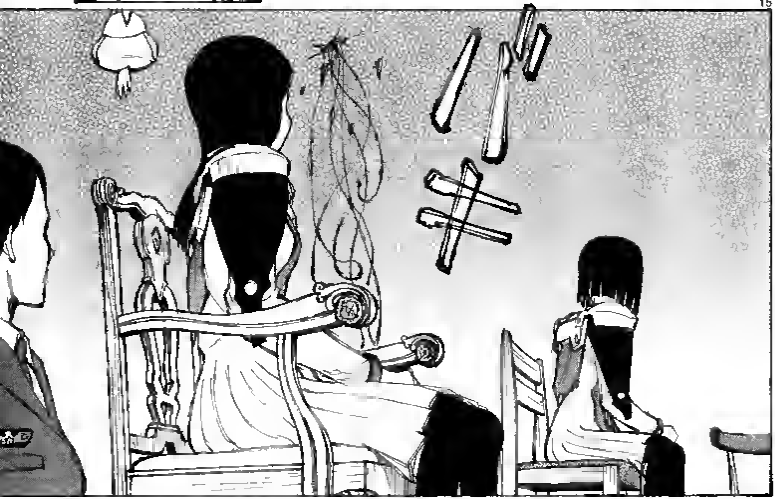

YEAH!!
OH,
BURN THEM OFF WITH THE LASERS!!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING WITH THOSE FEELERS?!

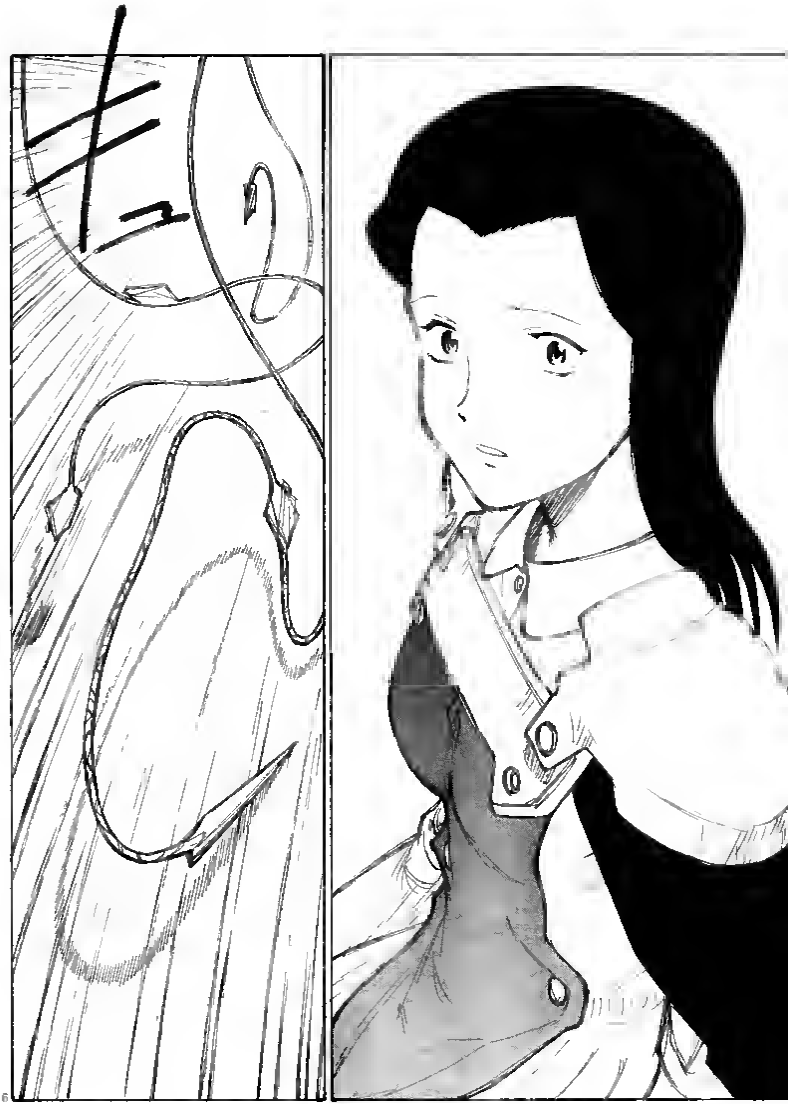












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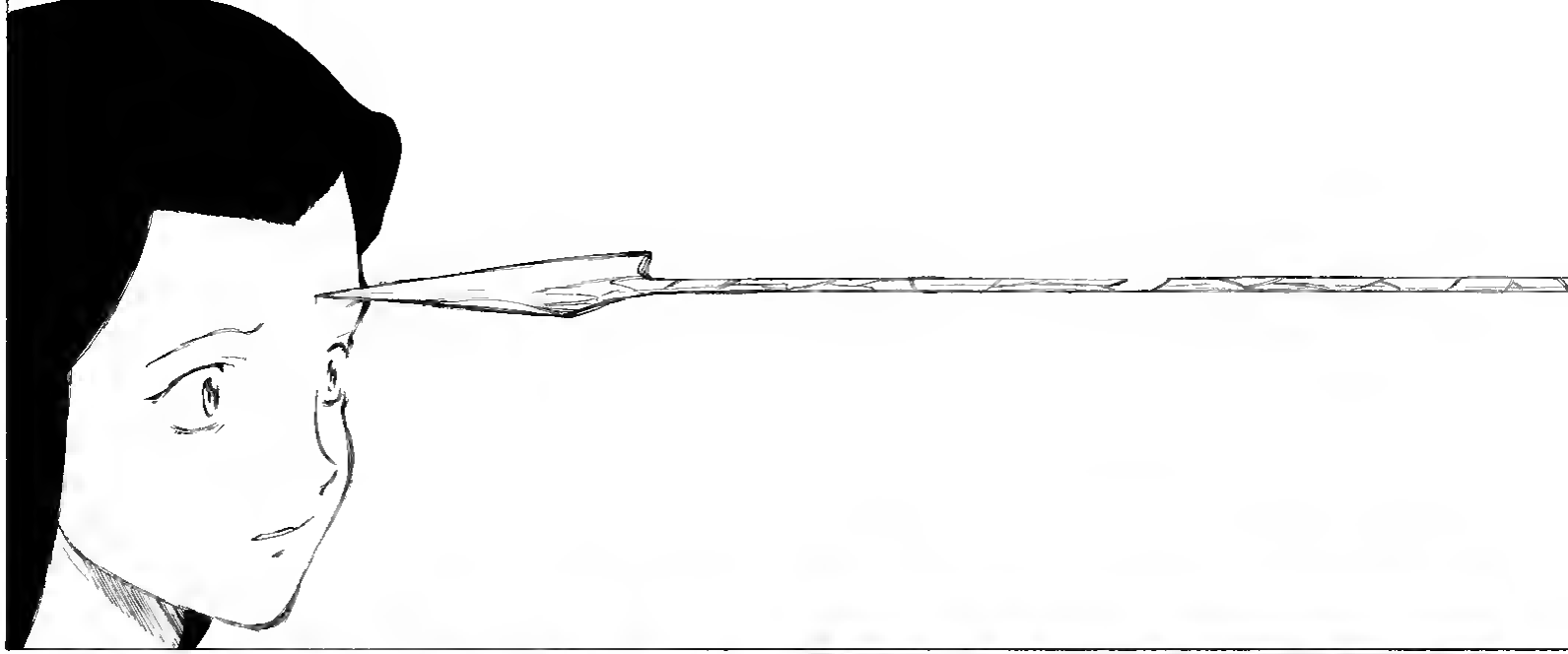
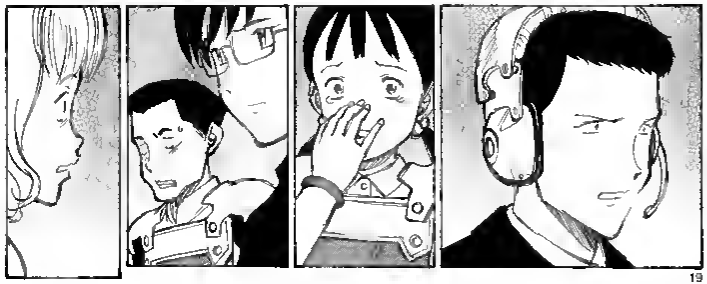
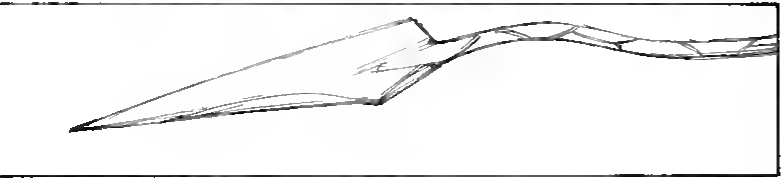
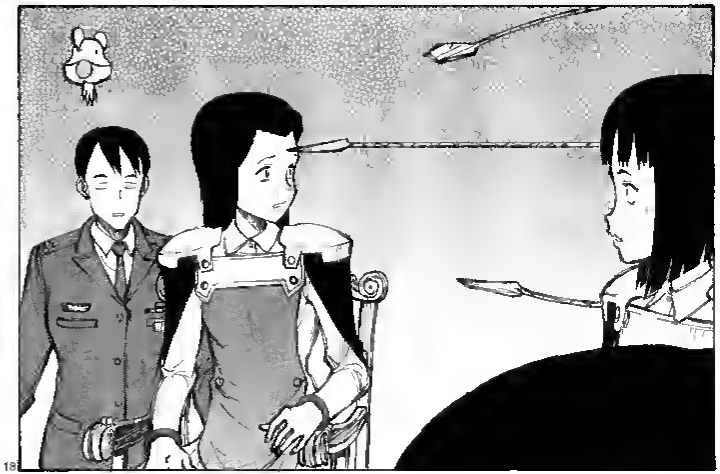
DA
MISS KOMO

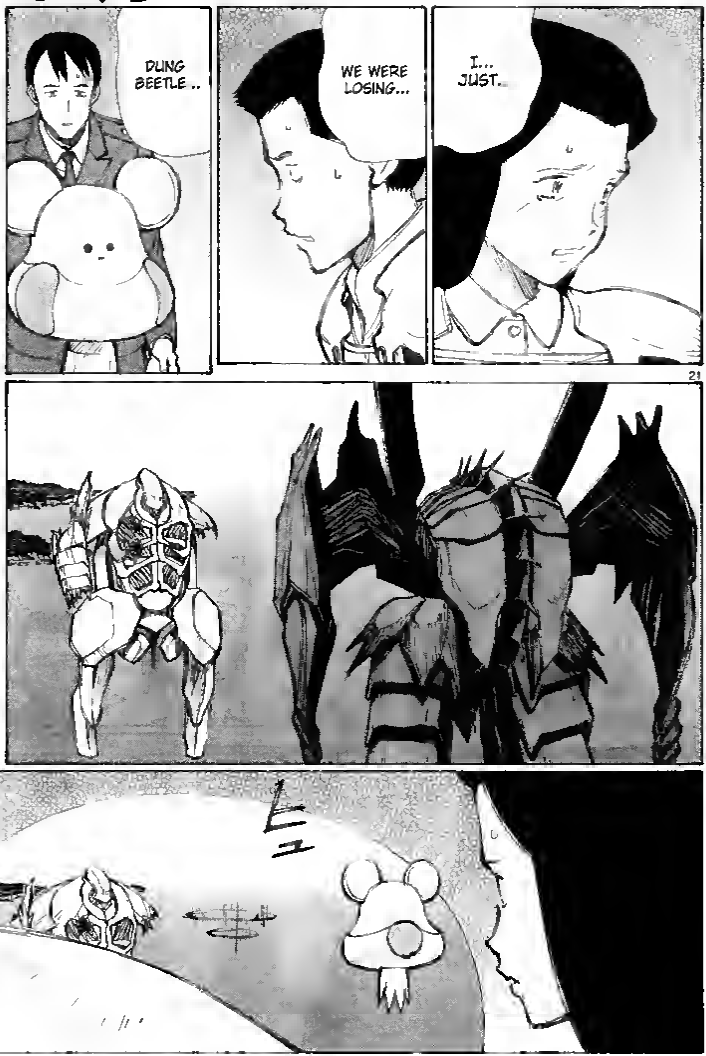


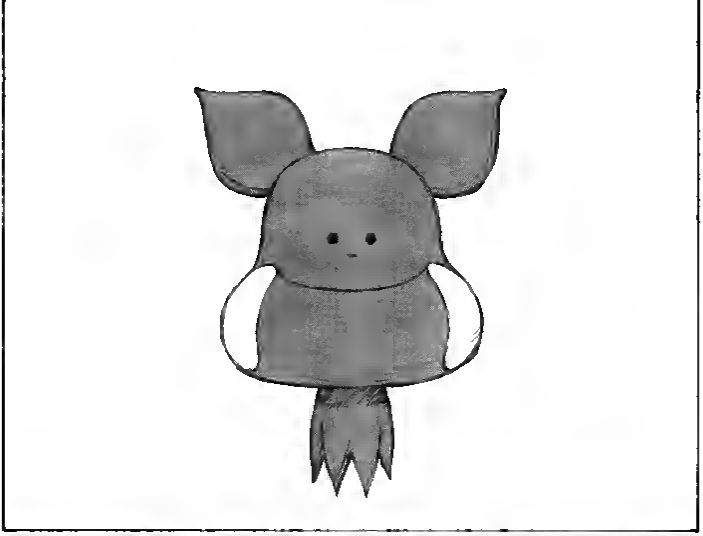


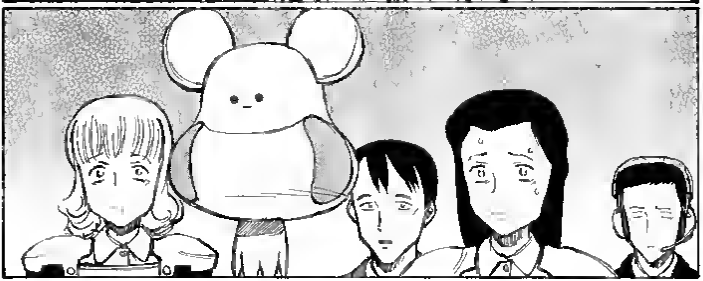


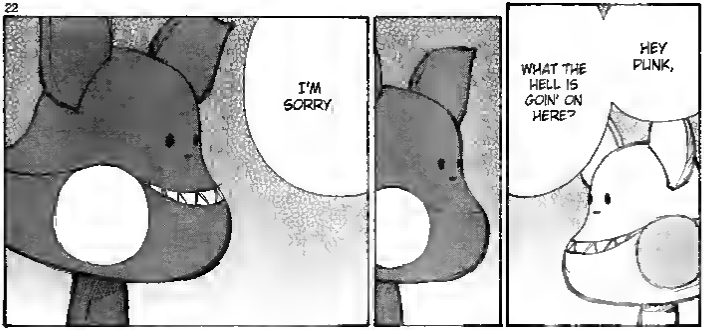


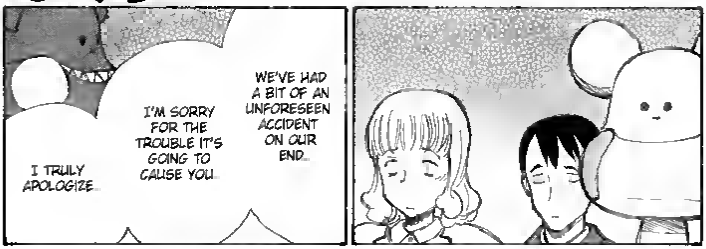
20
WHAT HAPPENED?
W... WHAT WAS THAT?
ハア
ハア


DUNG BEETLE..
WE WERE LOSING...
I... JUST...
21
ムニュ



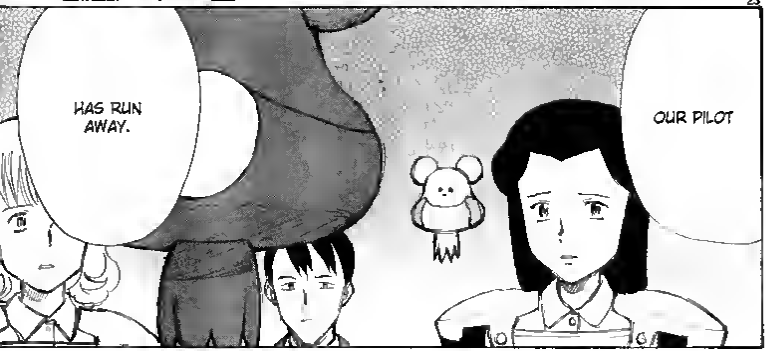



I'M SORRY.
HEY PUNK, WHAT THE HELL IS GOIN' ON HERE?

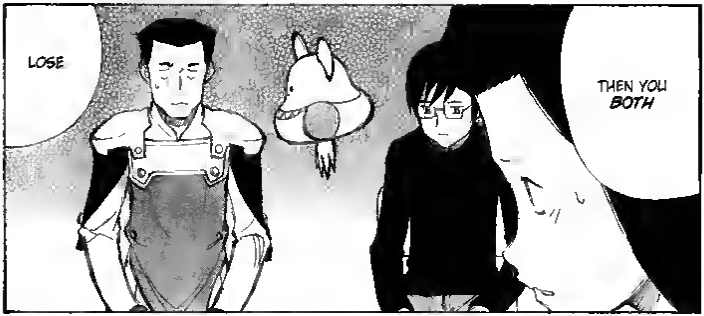

I TRULY APOLOGIZE...
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE IT'S GOING TO CAUSE YOU.
WE'VE HAD A BIT OF AN UNFORESEEN ACCIDENT ON OUR END...

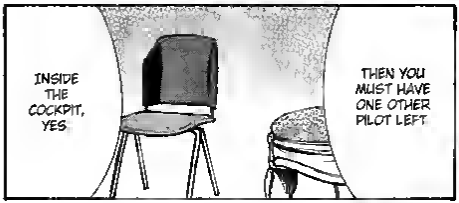
GOOD POINT, BUT YOU PEOPLE *WERE* LOSING REMEMBER?
WHAT, ARE YOU GUYS EVEN TRYING OVER THERE? HUH?

WHAT'S THE STORY?
WELL, WHAT IS IT?
IS HE AS SNOTTY AS THE OTHER?

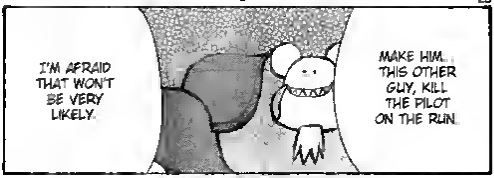

HAS RUN AWAY.
OUR PILOT

ESCAPED?
WELL, YES. I TELEPORTED HIM OF COURSE
BUT THEY CAN'T GET OUTTA THE COCKPIT UNLESS YOU TELEPORT 'EM.
YES
ABANDONED BATTLE?
IF WE DON'T FIND THE GUY IN 48 HOURS AND FINISH HIM OFF,
AND WE DON'T FIND HIM IN TIME...
IF THE PILOT RAN AWAY
WAIT A MINUTE

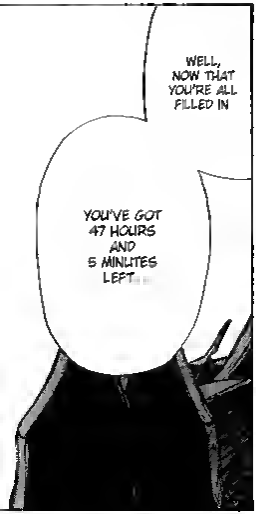

LOSE
THEN YOU BOTH


INSIDE THE COCKPIT, YES.
THEN YOU MUST HAVE ONE OTHER PILOT LEFT.

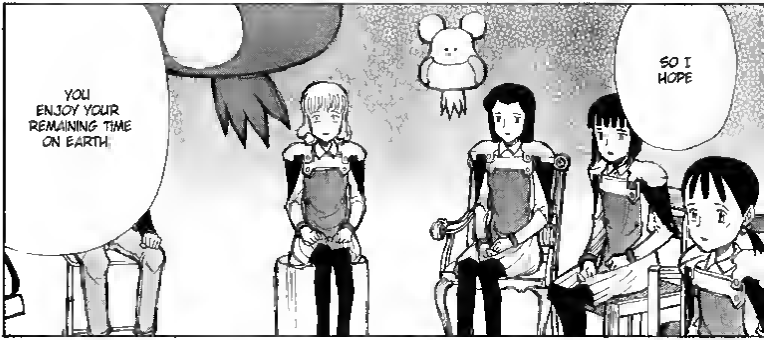
YES.
YOU GOT TWO MORE FIGHTS?

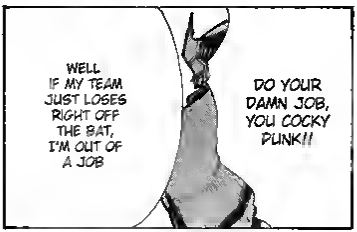

I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE VERY LIKELY.
MAKE HIM... THIS OTHER GUY, KILL THE PILOT ON THE RUN.

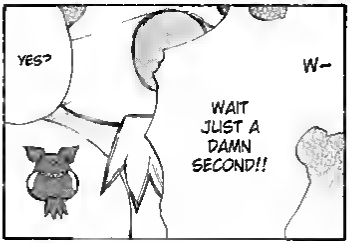
OF COURSE. HE HASN'T GONE FAR.
AND THIS PILOT... HE'S ON THE RUN IN OUR EARTH?


WELL, NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL FILLED IN...
YOU'VE GOT 47 HOURS AND 5 MINUTES LEFT...

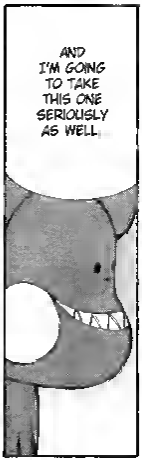
YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT.
YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW.
TELL US WHERE HE IS, THEN.


YOU ENJOY YOUR REMAINING TIME ON EARTH.
SO I HOPE

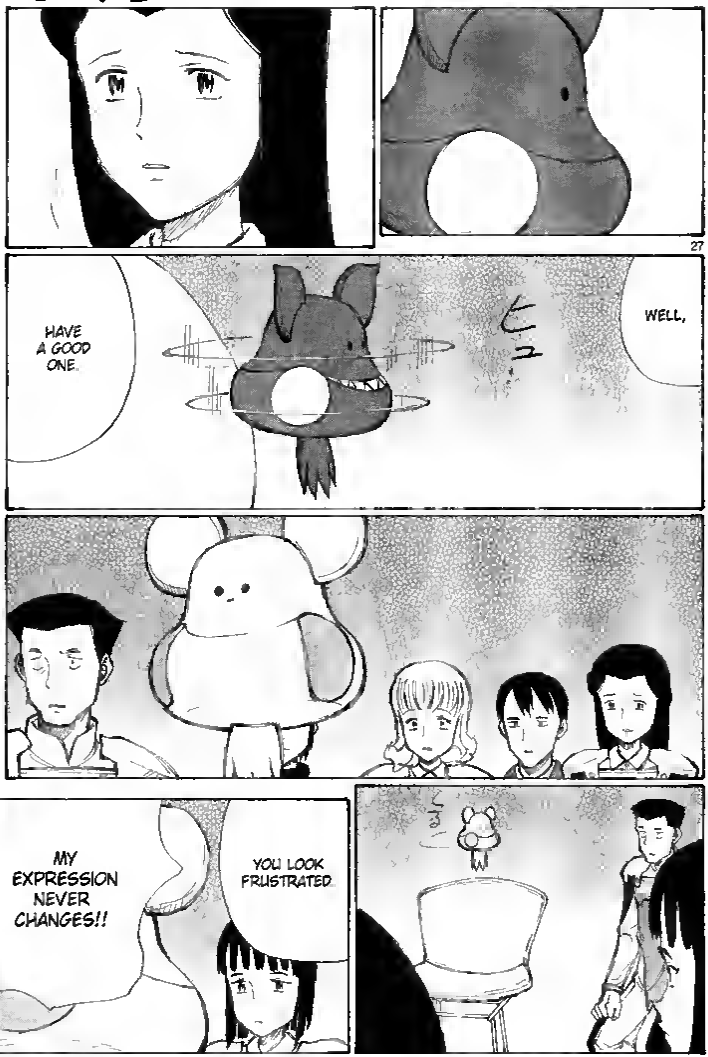

WELL IF MY TEAM JUST LOSES RIGHT OFF THE BAT, I'M OUT OF A JOB
DO YOUR DAMN JOB, YOU COCKY PUNK!!


YES?
W-
WAIT JUST A DAMN SECOND!!

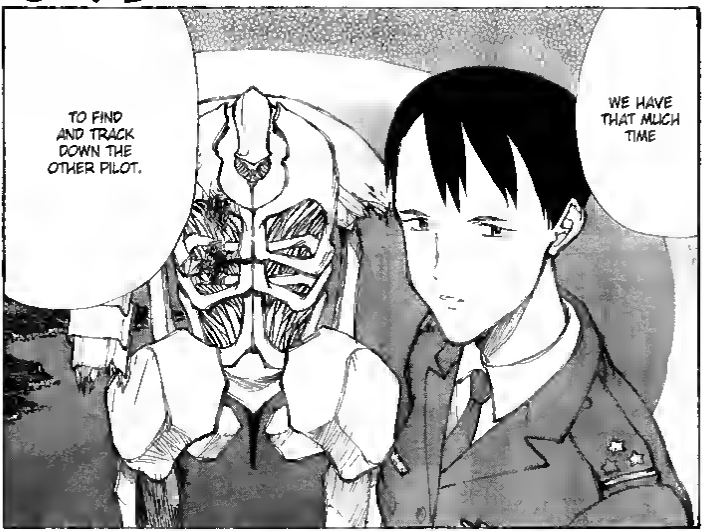
AND IF HE WANTS TO RUN, I HAVE NO RIGHT TO STOP HIM.
BUT WE HAVE TO RESPECT THE PILOT'S WISHES FIRST OF ALL,

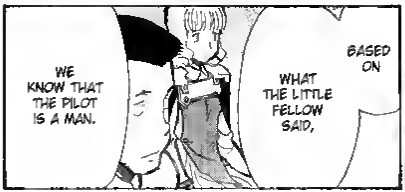

AND I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS ONE SERIOUSLY AS WELL.

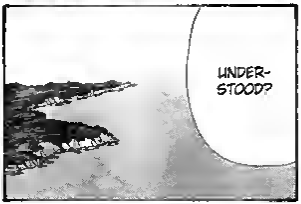
BESIDES, I'VE *BEEN* DOING MY JOB
THIS IS MY LAST TURN OUT.
I MEAN, WE'VE WON 12 BATTLES


27
WELL,
ヒュ
HAVE A GOOD ONE.
YOU LOOK FRUSTRATED.
MY EXPRESSION NEVER CHANGES!!
しゅー

THE CHEEK OF THAT RUNT!!
MAN, THIS PISSES ME OFF!!
DAMNIT!!
WE HAVE 47 HOURS AND 3 MINUTES REMAINING
CAPTAIN TANAKA,
LET'S GET WORKING, THEN


WE HAVE THAT MUCH TIME
TO FIND AND TRACK DOWN THE OTHER PILOT.


WE KNOW THAT THE PILOT IS A MAN.
WHAT THE LITTLE FELLOW SAID,
BASED ON


UNDER-STOOD?

YES

YOU WANT THE SCOOP ON THE ENEMY PILOT, RIGHT?
YOU BET
DUNG BEETLE, YOU CAN VISIT THE OTHER COCKPIT, RIGHT?

I WILL GO BACK TO COMMAND

WHAT?! STOP STARIN'!!
I CAN DO THAT.
30
FOR NOW, JUST REMAIN ON ALERT
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN
THEY ABANDONED A WINNING BATTLE.
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO LEARN THERE

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CHAPTER 34/END

Waku Takashi
(Waku)

Isao Kako
(Kako)

Daiichi Yamura
(Daichi)

Masaru Kodaka
(Kodama)

Kanji Yoshikawa
(Kanji)

Yasuhiko Meji
(Meji)

Jun Ushiro
(Ushiro)

Yosuke Kirie
(Kirie)

Nako Nakarai
(Nakarai)

Aiko Tokosumi
(Anko)

Yoko Machi
(Machi)

Chizuru Honda
(Chizu)

Takami Komoda
(Komo)

Maki Ano
(Maki)

Kana Ushiro
(Kana)

Dung Beetle

ぼくらの

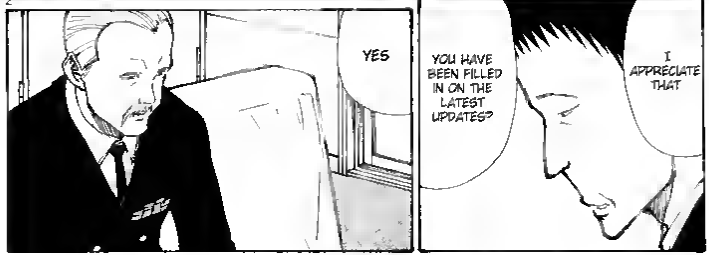
CHAPTER 35
TAKAMI KOMODA (3)

HER FATHER, THE OFFICER WHO KNOWS THIS TRUTH.

A GIRL WHO WILL DIE IN A HANDFUL OF HOURS.

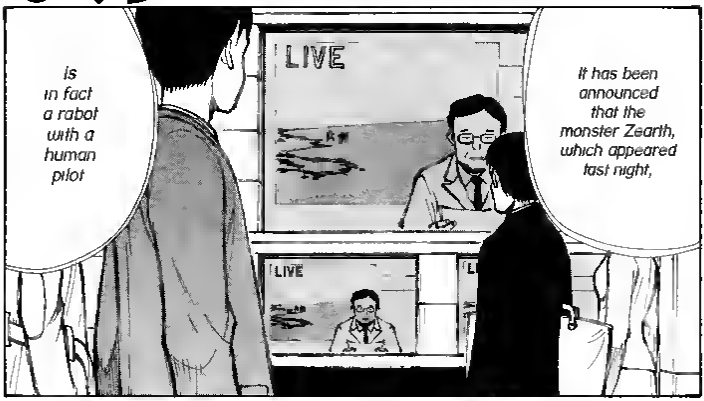
鬼頭莫宏
Kito Mohiro

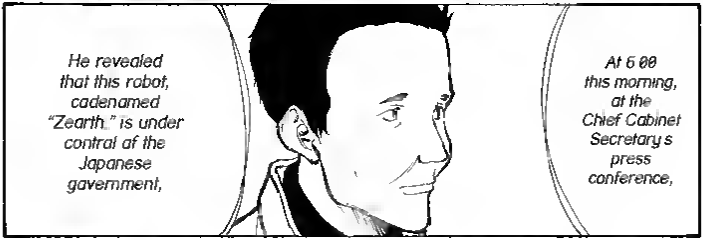
PLEASE PARDON THE ODD HOUR, SIR.
NOT A PROBLEM.
LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.

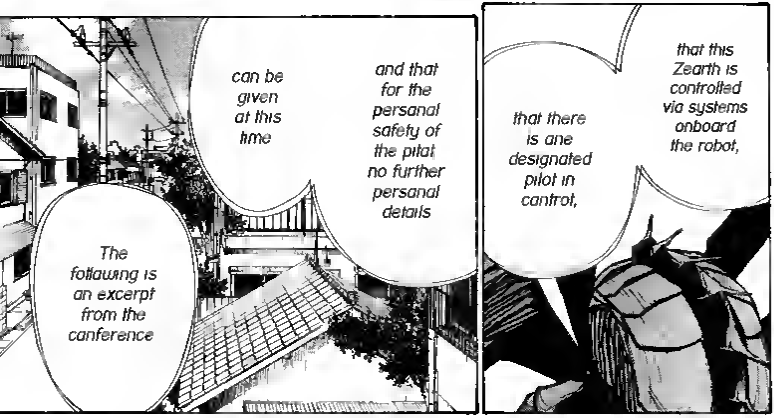

YES
YOU HAVE BEEN FILLED IN ON THE LATEST UPDATES?
I APPRECIATE THAT

OR SHOULD I SAY, MR. KOMODA
COLONEL KOMODA.
WE HAVE DECIDED ON A PLAN THAT WILL BRING BACK THE ESCAPED ENEMY PILOT
3
WE NEED YOU TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF
IT WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE
YES
HAVE YOU LEARNED THE STORY BEHIND THIS OTHER PILOT?
BUT IT IS A REQUEST WE CANNOT ASK OF ANY OTHER PERSON.
IT WILL MEAN EXPOSING YOUR FAMILY TO DANGER

THE FACT THAT TAKAMI KOMODA IS PILOTING ZEARTH.
BUT WE ARE GOING TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE
This is a special report
LIVE
LIVE


LIVE
LIVE
It has been announced that the monster Zearth, which appeared last night,
is in fact a robot with a human pilot

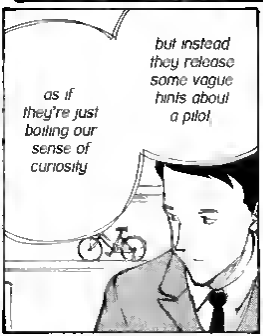

At 6:00 this morning, at the Chief Cabinet Secretary's press conference,
He revealed that this robot, codenamed "Zearth," is under control of the Japanese government,


that this Zearth is controlled via systems onboard the robot,
that there is one designated pilot in control,
and that for the personal safety of the pilot no further personal details
can be given at this time
The following is an excerpt from the conference

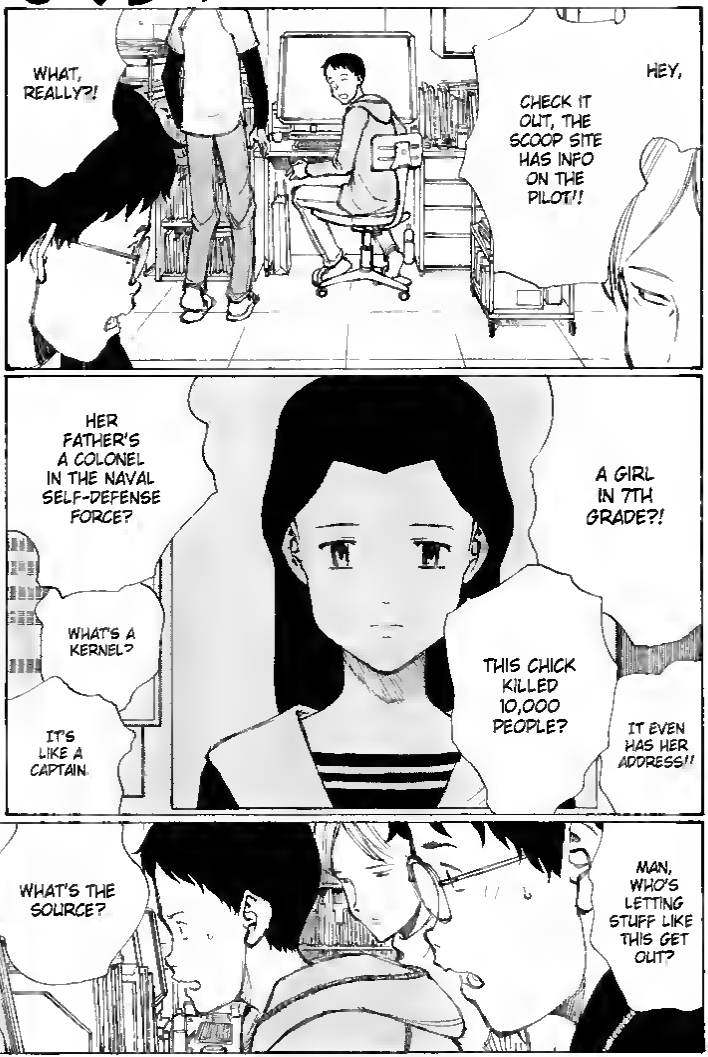
EXTRA, EXTRA!!
READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

Personally, this did not sit well with me

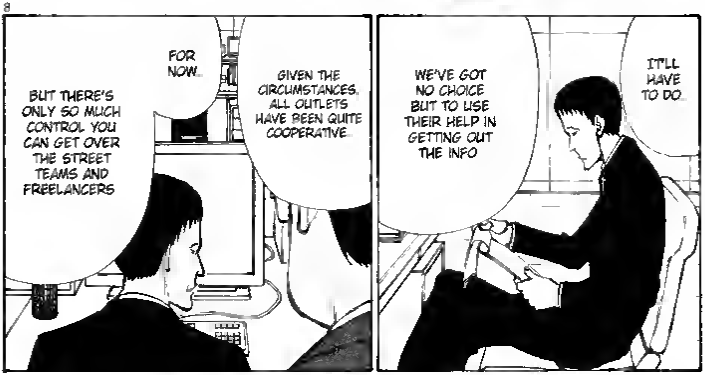
What is the point of its actions?
What exactly is this Zearth?
They didn't really tell us anything specific about it

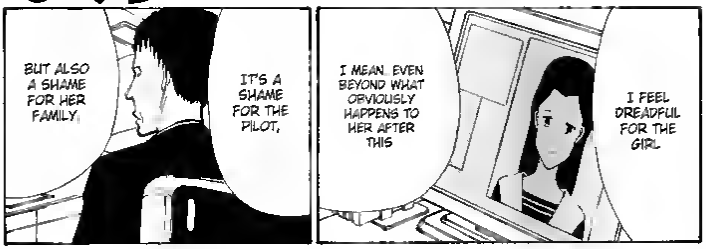

but instead they release some vague hints about a pilot
as if they're just baiting our sense of curiosity

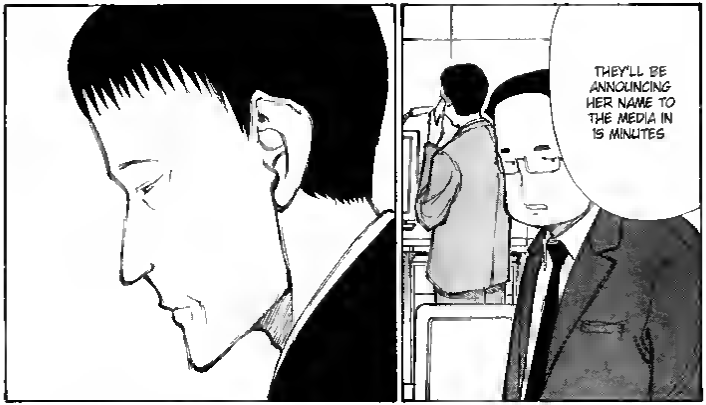
What did you feel about the secretary's press conference?
Well gosh, I can't help but feel that it avoided the real points!

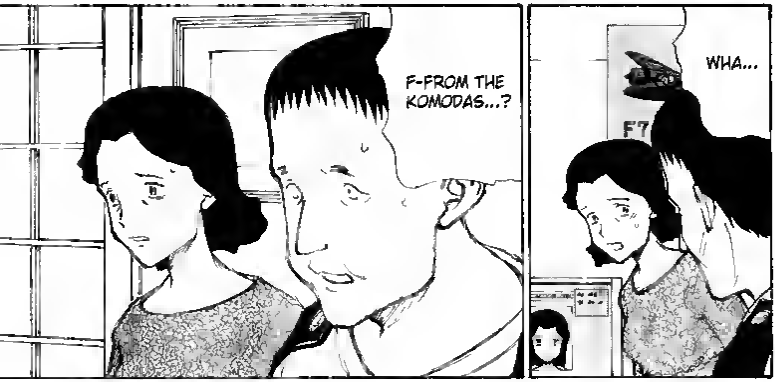

WHAT, REALLY?!
HEY, CHECK IT OUT, THE SCOOP SITE HAS INFO ON THE PILOT!!
HER FATHER'S A COLONEL IN THE NAVAL SELF-DEFENSE FORCE?
A GIRL IN 7TH GRADE?!
WHAT'S A KERNEL?
IT'S LIKE A CAPTAIN.
THIS CHICK KILLED 10,000 PEOPLE?
IT EVEN HAS HER ADDRESS!!
WHAT'S THE SOURCE?
MAN, WHO'S LETTING STUFF LIKE THIS GET OUT?

THE REPS ARE CLEARED TO DISCLOSE LEVEL 2 INFO.
HERE'S THE LIST.
WE'VE GOT CONTRACTS WITH THE MEDIA OUTLETS
FOR NOW, EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN


FOR NOW...
BUT THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH CONTROL YOU CAN GET OVER THE STREET TEAMS AND FREELANCERS
GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ALL OUTLETS HAVE BEEN QUITE COOPERATIVE.
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO USE THEIR HELP IN GETTING OUT THE INFO
IT'LL HAVE TO DO.

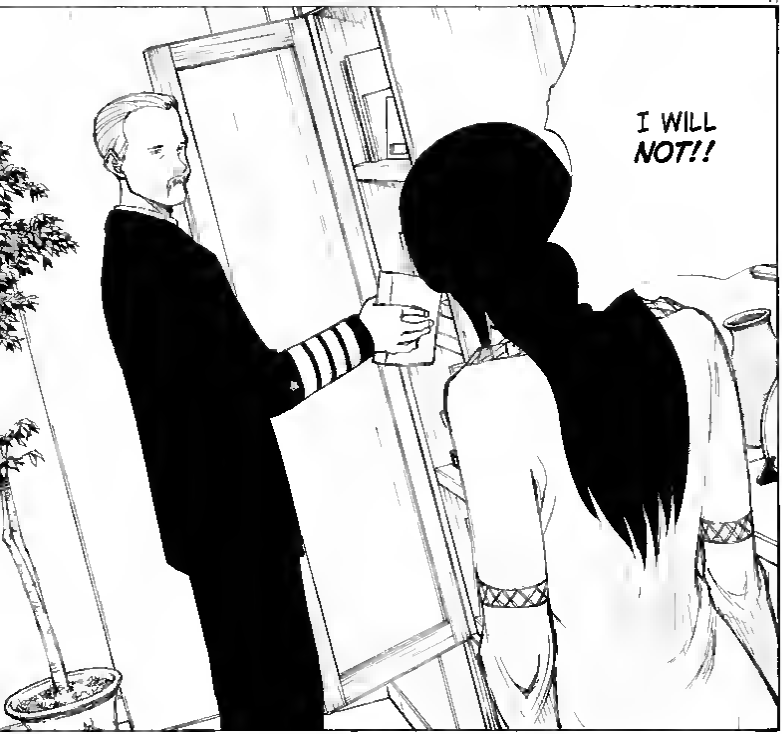

I FEEL DREADFUL FOR THE GIRL
I MEAN, EVEN BEYOND WHAT OBVIOUSLY HAPPENS TO HER AFTER THIS
IT'S A SHAME FOR THE PILOT,
BUT ALSO A SHAME FOR HER FAMILY.


THEY'LL BE ANNOUNCING HER NAME TO THE MEDIA IN 15 MINUTES

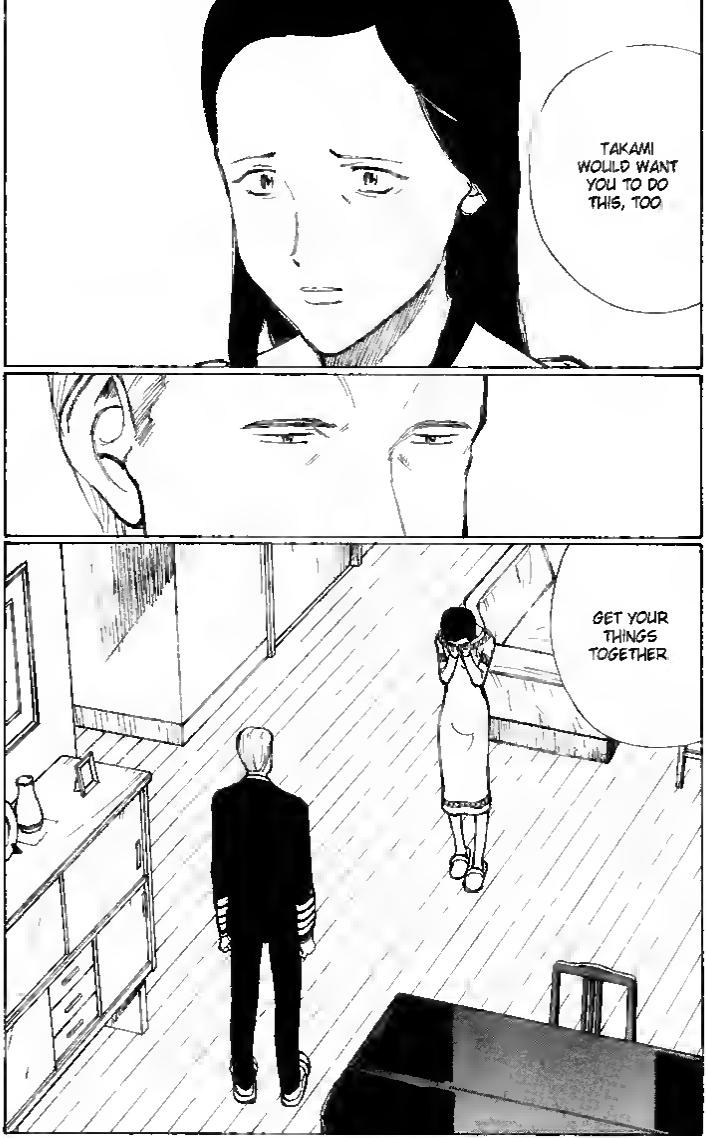

WHA...
F-FROM THE KOMODAS...?

WHAT'S GOING ON?
WE'RE LEAVING THE HOUSE.
GET EVERYTHING YOU NEED TOGETHER.
LEAVING...?
WHY
I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU WATCHED OVER.
FIRST WE'LL GO TO ATSUGI BASE
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
IT'S NOT ENTIRELY SAFE ON MILITARY GROUND BUT IT WILL BE BETTER THAN HERE
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL NOW.
THERE'S A CAR WAITING OUTSIDE.
MAKE IT QUICK

NO...


I WILL
NOT!!

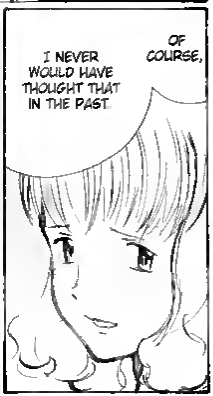
I MEAN...
BY TOMORROW EVENING, TAKAMI WON'T EVEN BE...
IT'S NOT LIKE...
ANYTHING WILL KEEP HER ALIVE...
AT THIS RATE, EVERYONE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD IS GOING TO DIE
NOT JUST TAKAMI
RIGHT NOW, OUR GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY ARE WORKING TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
YOU ARE ONE OF THE PEOPLE THEY ARE TRYING TO SAVE.


TAKAMI WOULD WANT YOU TO DO THIS, TOO
GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER.

MAN, THAT WAS WEIRD.

OUR SCHOOL WAS JUST LIKE ANY OTHER DAY.
AWW, BETTER THAN MINE.
WE HAD CLASSES OFF, BUT I WISHED WE DIDN'T

WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH YEAH I SAW A BIT OF STUFF ON THE TV
YOU MEAN THEM ANNOUNCING THAT MISS KOMODA IS THE PILOT OF ZEARTH.


OF COURSE, I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT IN THE PAST.

ヒュオ
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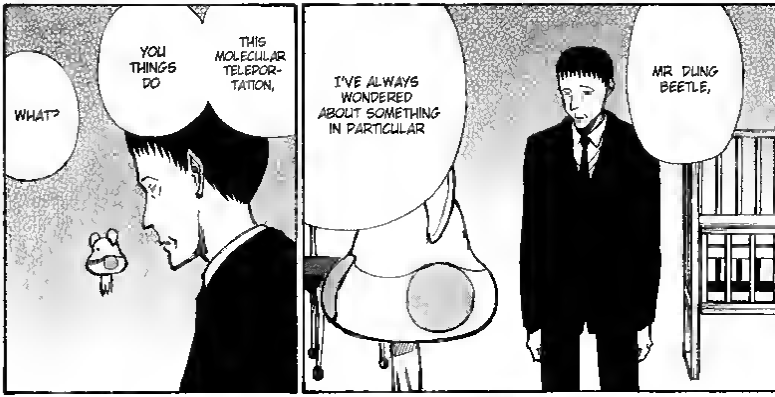
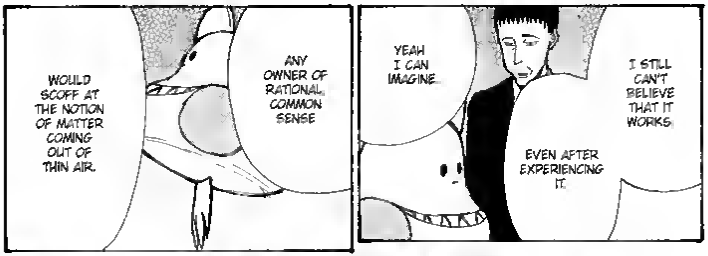
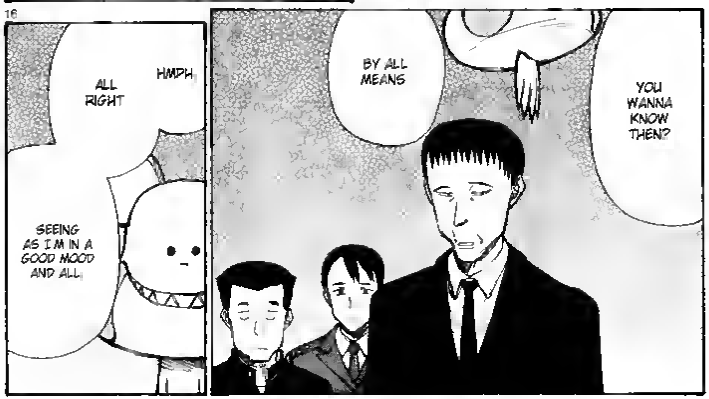
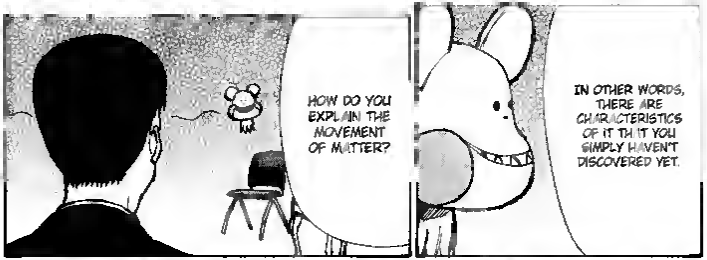
WHERE DID YOU GO?
THE STAFF WROTE UP THIS SCENARIO IN THE PLANNING ROOM LAST NIGHT
YES,
THEY'RE DOING IT BECAUSE THEY HAVE SOME PLAN, RIGHT?
WE'VE STILL GOT TIME...
WHICH IS EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD BE
THE TVS HAVEN'T SHOWN ANYTHING ELSE TODAY

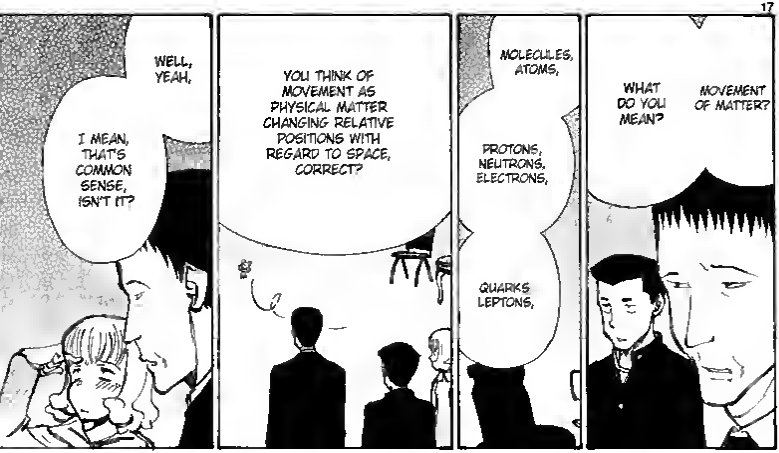

MR. DUNG BEETLE,
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR
THIS MOLECULAR TELEPORTATION,
YOU THINGS DO
WHAT?


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT IT WORKS.
EVEN AFTER EXPERIENCING IT.
YEAH I CAN IMAGINE.
ANY OWNER OF RATIONAL COMMON SENSE
WOULD SCOFF AT THE NOTION OF MATTER COMING OUT OF THIN AIR.

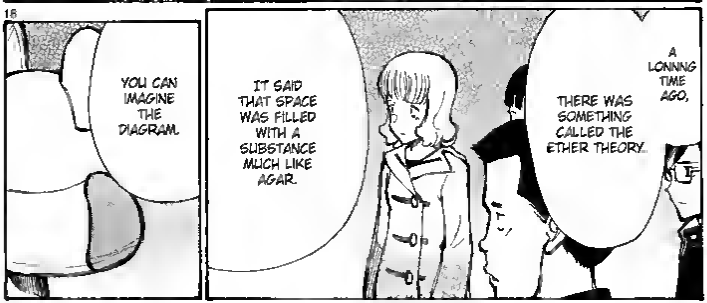

YOU WANNA KNOW THEN?
BY ALL MEANS
HMPH.
ALL RIGHT
SEEING AS I'M IN A GOOD MOOD AND ALL.

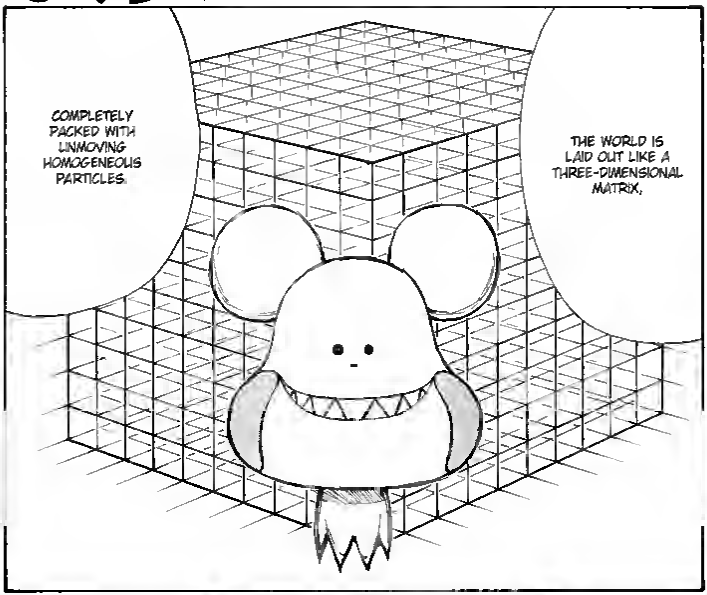
DIFFERS FROM WHAT YOU CALL "PHYSICS."
THE ACTUAL MAKEUP OF SPACE ITSELF

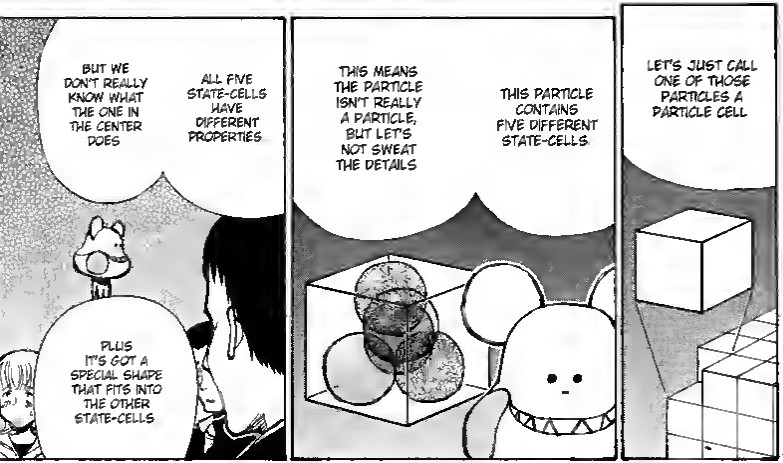

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE MOVEMENT OF MATTER?
IN OTHER WORDS, THERE ARE CHARACTERISTICS OF IT THAT YOU SIMPLY HAVEN'T DISCOVERED YET.

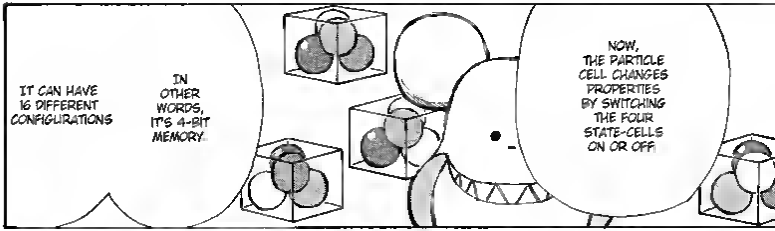

WELL, YEAH,
I MEAN, THAT'S COMMON SENSE, ISN'T IT?
YOU THINK OF MOVEMENT AS PHYSICAL MATTER CHANGING RELATIVE POSITIONS WITH REGARD TO SPACE, CORRECT?
MOLECULES, ATOMS,
PROTONS, NEUTRONS, ELECTRONS,
QUARKS LEPTONS,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
MOVEMENT OF MATTER?

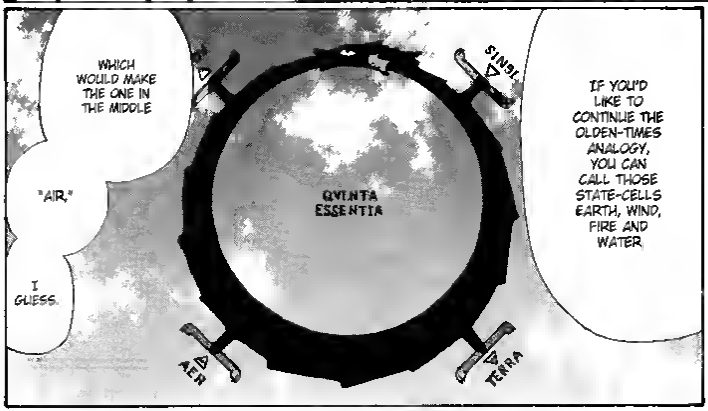
THE MOVEMENT OF MATTER IS NOTHING BUT APPEARANCES.
BUT WHAT IF, THE EVEN SMALLER PARTICLES AREN'T MOVING AT ALL?
WHAT'S ACTUALLY MOVING
IS ONLY INFORMATION

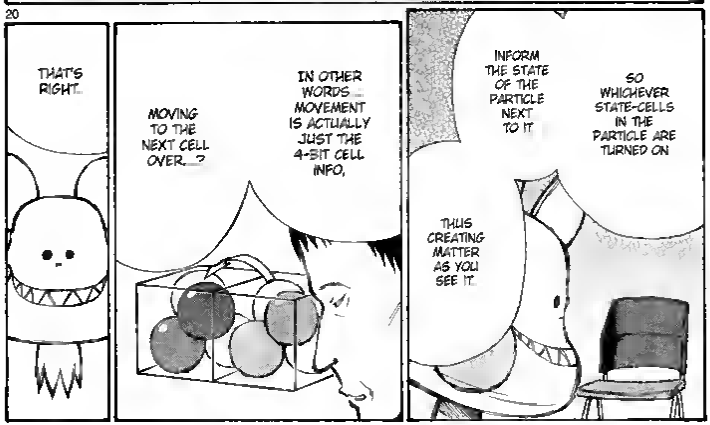

A LONNG TIME AGO,
THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED THE ETHER THEORY.
IT SAID THAT SPACE WAS FILLED WITH A SUBSTANCE MUCH LIKE AGAR.
YOU CAN IMAGINE THE DIAGRAM.


COMPLETELY PACKED WITH UNMOVING HOMOGENEOUS PARTICLES.
THE WORLD IS LAID OUT LIKE A THREE-DIMENSIONAL MATRIX.

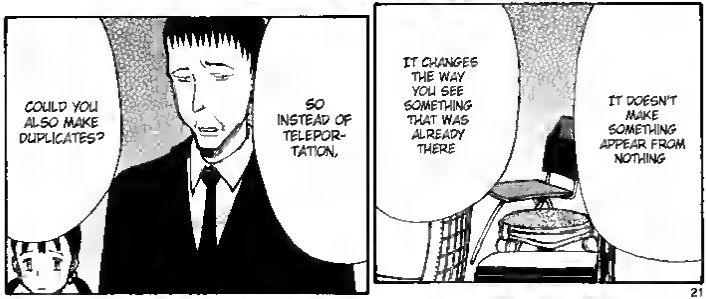

BUT WE DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE ONE IN THE CENTER DOES
ALL FIVE STATE-CELLS HAVE DIFFERENT PROPERTIES.
PLUS IT'S GOT A SPECIAL SHAPE THAT FITS INTO THE OTHER STATE-CELLS
THIS MEANS THE PARTICLE ISN'T REALLY A PARTICLE, BUT LET'S NOT SWEAT THE DETAILS
THIS PARTICLE CONTAINS FIVE DIFFERENT STATE-CELLS.
LET'S JUST CALL ONE OF THOSE PARTICLES A PARTICLE CELL

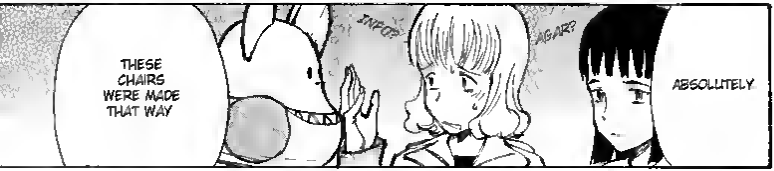

IT CAN HAVE 16 DIFFERENT CONFIGURATIONS
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S 4-BIT MEMORY.
NOW, THE PARTICLE CELL CHANGES PROPERTIES BY SWITCHING THE FOUR STATE-CELLS ON OR OFF.

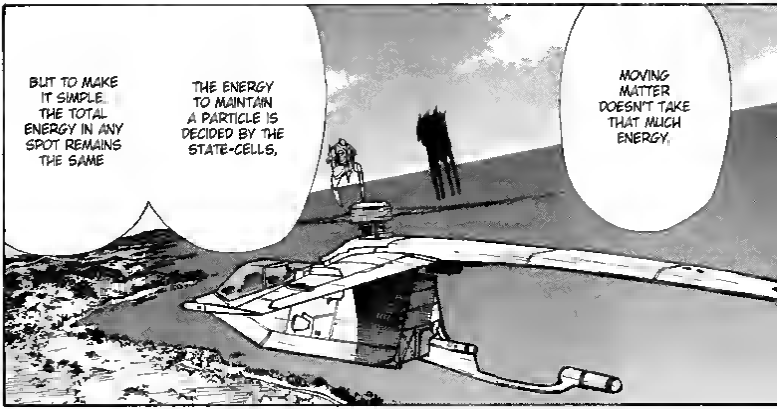

WHICH WOULD MAKE THE ONE IN THE MIDDLE
"AIR,"
I GUESS.
SINGI
QVINTA ESSENTIA
AER
TERRA
IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTINUE THE OLDEN-TIMES ANALOGY, YOU CAN CALL THOSE STATE-CELLS EARTH, WIND, FIRE AND WATER.

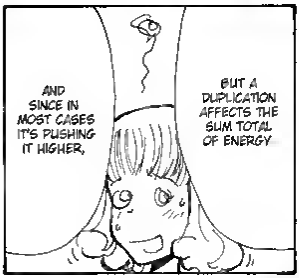

THAT'S RIGHT.
MOVING TO THE NEXT CELL OVER...?
IN OTHER WORDS... MOVEMENT IS ACTUALLY JUST THE 4-BIT CELL INFO,
INFORM THE STATE OF THE PARTICLE NEXT TO IT
SO WHICHEVER STATE-CELLS IN THE PARTICLE ARE TURNED ON
THUS CREATING MATTER AS YOU SEE IT.

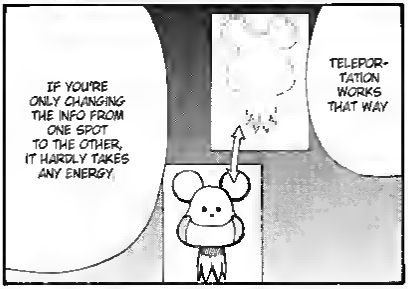
THIS TELEPORTATION SIMPLY INVOLVES TAKING THE DATA FROM THE DESIRED CELLS,
AND REWRITING IT OVER THE PARTICLES IN THE DESIRED DESTINATION.


IT DOESN'T MAKE SOMETHING APPEAR FROM NOTHING
IT CHANGES THE WAY YOU SEE SOMETHING THAT WAS ALREADY THERE
SO INSTEAD OF TELEPOR-TATION,
COULD YOU ALSO MAKE DUPLICATES?

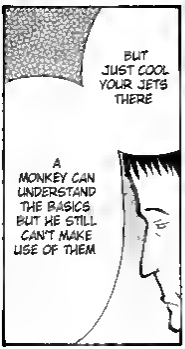

ABSOLUTELY
AGAIN?
INFOS
THESE CHAIRS WERE MADE THAT WAY

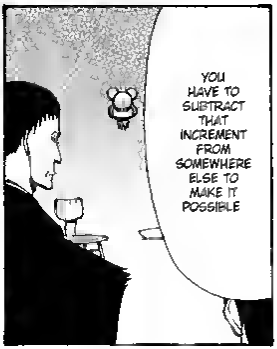

BUT TO MAKE IT SIMPLE, THE TOTAL ENERGY IN ANY SPOT REMAINS THE SAME
THE ENERGY TO MAINTAIN A PARTICLE IS DECIDED BY THE STATE-CELLS.
MOVING MATTER DOESN'T TAKE THAT MUCH ENERGY.

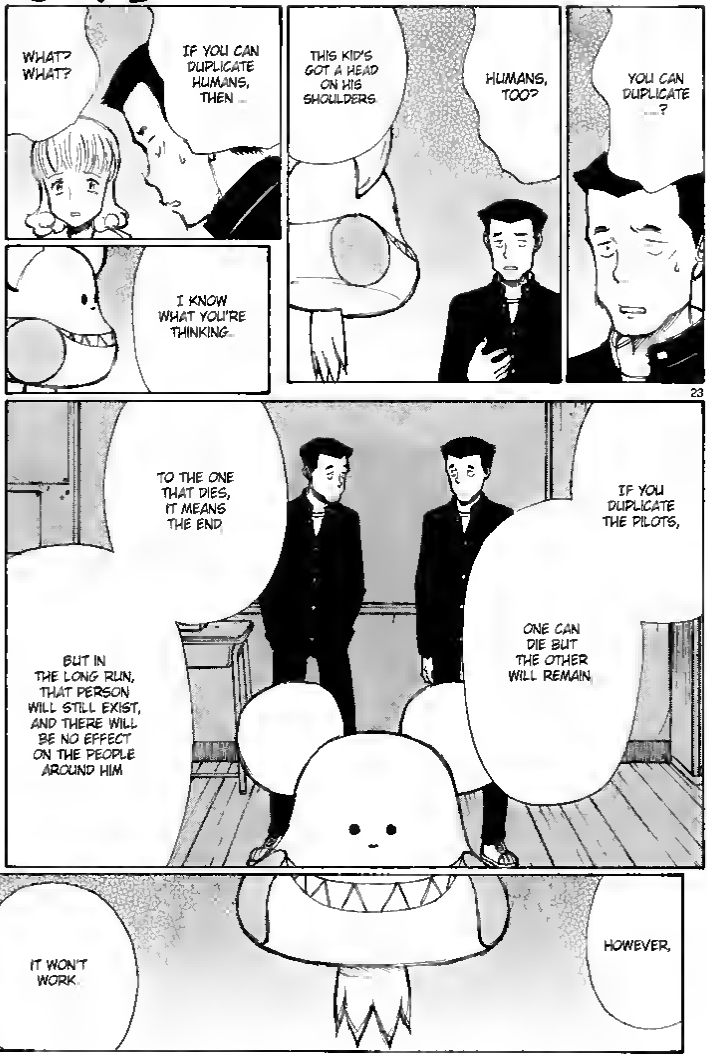

AND SINCE IN MOST CASES IT'S PUSHING IT HIGHER,
BUT A DUPLICATION AFFECTS THE SUM TOTAL OF ENERGY.

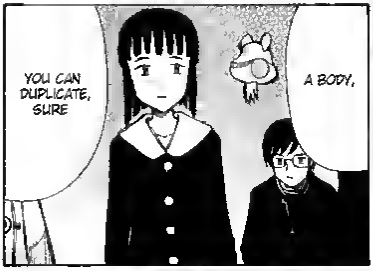

IF YOU'RE ONLY CHANGING THE INFO FROM ONE SPOT TO THE OTHER, IT HARDLY TAKES ANY ENERGY.
TELEPOR-TATION WORKS THAT WAY

BUT DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN'T USE THEM IN OUR LITTLE GAME.
NOW, THESE PARTICLE REWRITES ARE ABOUT THE MOST POWERFUL WAY YOU COULD ATTACK AN ENEMY


BUT JUST COOL YOUR JETS THERE
A MONKEY CAN UNDERSTAND THE BASICS BUT HE STILL CAN'T MAKE USE OF THEM

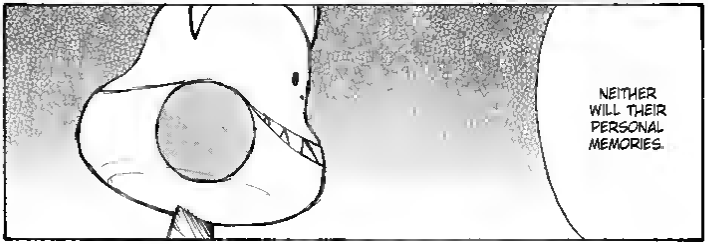

YOU HAVE TO SUBTRACT THAT INCREMENT FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE


WHAT? WHAT?
IF YOU CAN DUPLICATE HUMANS, THEN...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING...
THIS KID'S GOT A HEAD ON HIS SHOULDERS.
HUMANS, TOO?
YOU CAN DUPLICATE ...?
TO THE ONE THAT DIES, IT MEANS THE END.
BUT IN THE LONG RUN, THAT PERSON WILL STILL EXIST, AND THERE WILL BE NO EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM.
IF YOU DUPLICATE THE PILOTS,
ONE CAN DIE BUT THE OTHER WILL REMAIN.
IT WON'T WORK.
HOWEVER,

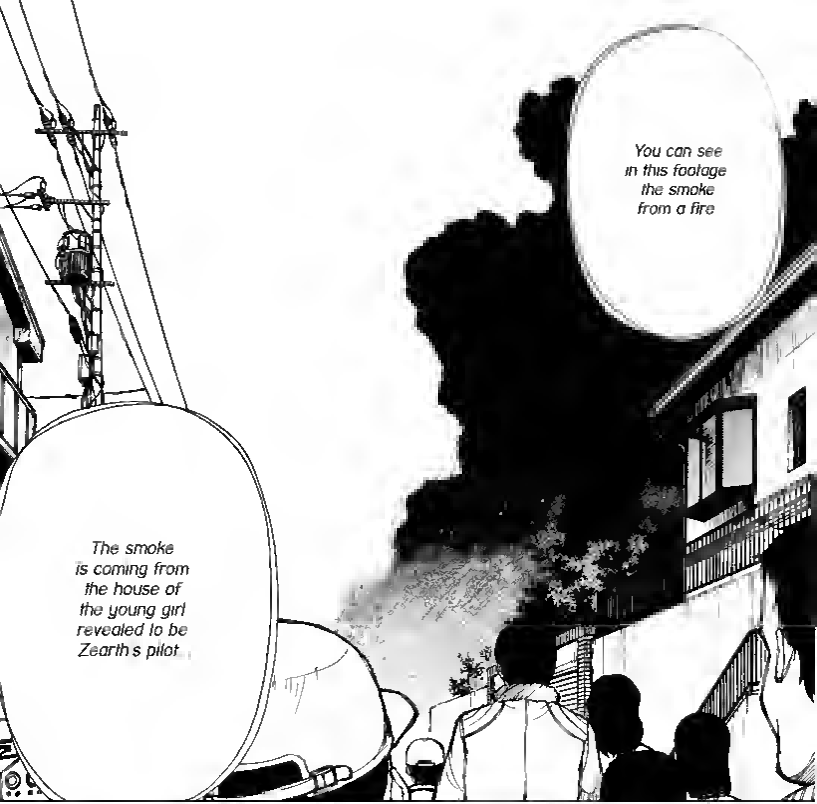

YOU CAN DUPLICATE, SURE
A BODY,

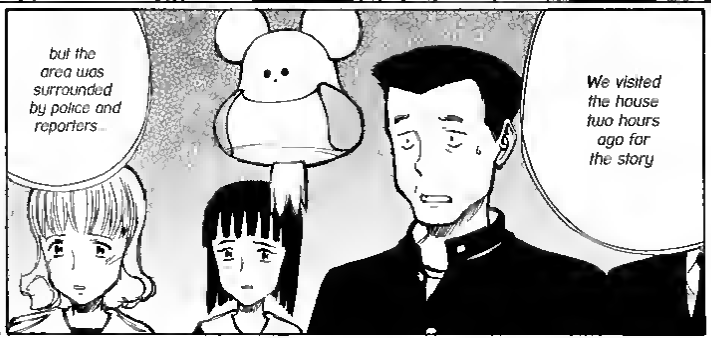
WELL IF YOU CAN TELEPORT THEM...

WON'T GO OVER
BUT THE SOUL

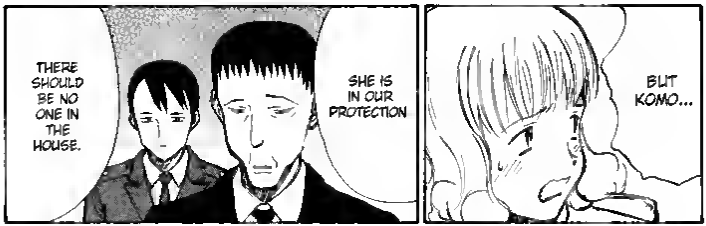

NEITHER WILL THEIR PERSONAL MEMORIES.

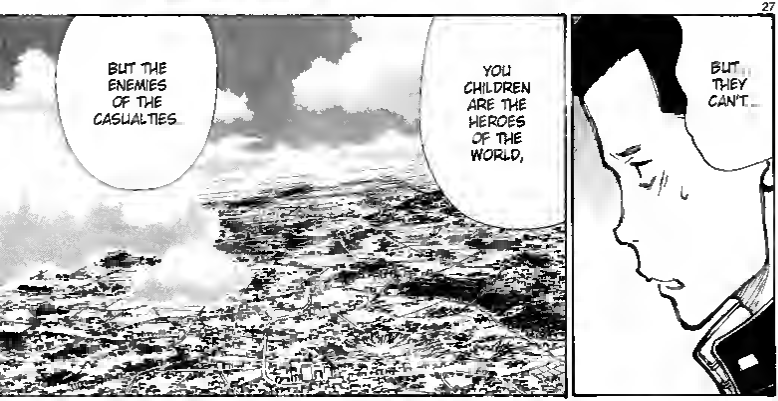
WHY...?
NOT A LIVING THING
IT'LL JUST BE A CORPSE
THE SOUL WON'T GO...?
25
YOU CAN SOMETIMES DUPLICATE PLANTS OR SIMPLE ANIMALS THAT WILL LIVE ON REGARDLESS OF SOUL.
IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE, WITH THE WAY A SOUL IS MADE UP.
We've got new information.
LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S UP
HEY,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY MAKE-UP OF THE SOUL?


You can see in this footage the smoke from a fire
The smoke is coming from the house of the young girl revealed to be Zearth's pilot


We visited the house two hours ago for the story
but the area was surrounded by police and reporters

and a man setting fire to the building was spotted
The fire has been classified as arson

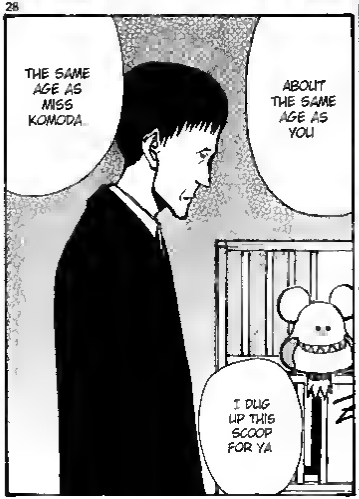

THERE SHOULD BE NO ONE IN THE HOUSE.
SHE IS IN OUR PROTECTION
BUT KOMO...

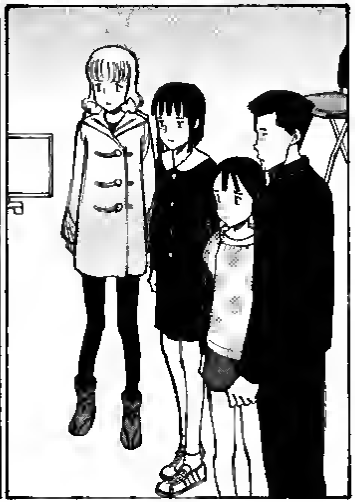

BUT THE ENEMIES OF THE CASUALTIES...
YOU CHILDREN ARE THE HEROES OF THE WORLD,
BUT... THEY CAN'T...

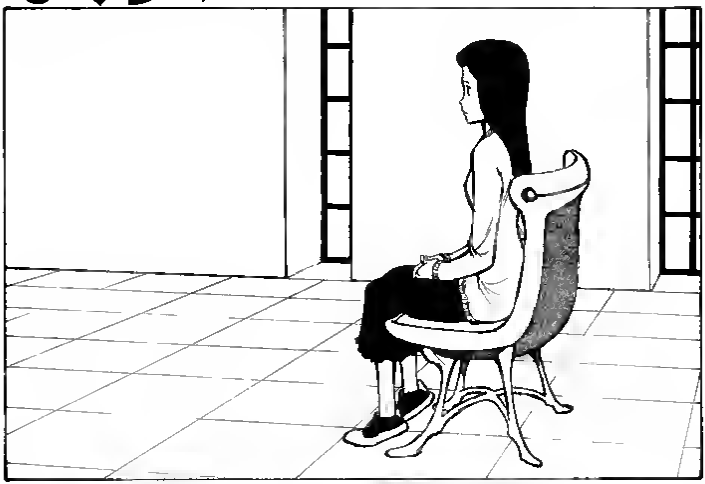
FORTUNATELY, HE IS A SOLDIER
COLONEL KOMODA IS AWARE OF THE SITUATION

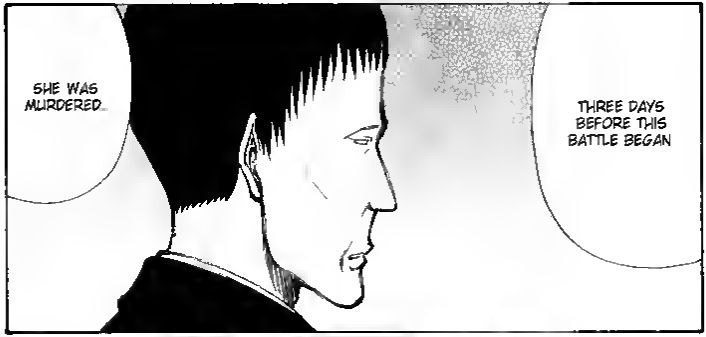
AND THEY'RE TAKING IT OUT ON HER?

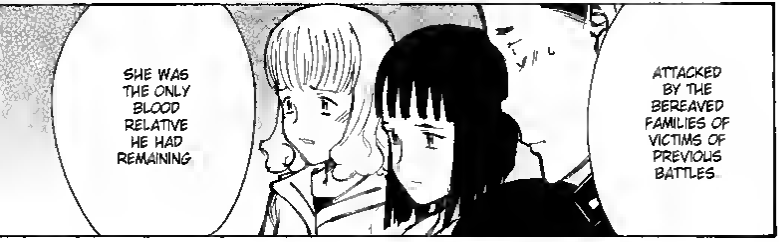
HAD A SINGLE DAUGHTER
The man suspected of being the arsonist has been apprehended by the police.
THE PILOT WHO IS NOW ON THE RUN, THE ENEMY


THE SAME AGE AS MISS KOMODA
ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS YOU
I DUG UP THIS SCOOP FOR YA






SHE WAS MURDERED.
THREE DAYS BEFORE THIS BATTLE BEGAN


SHE WAS THE ONLY BLOOD RELATIVE HE HAD REMAINING.
ATTACKED BY THE BEREAVED FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF PREVIOUS BATTLES.

WHO CARES IF THE HOUSE GETS BURNT!!
GODDAMNIT!!
THEY'LL NEVER COME BACK!!
MY FAMILY!!
MY KIDS!!
LIVE

LIVE
LIVE
We have another news bulletin
Er
What is...?
Ahem
The girl who has been identified as Zearth's pilot
apparently has a piano recital scheduled for tomorrow

However it is not known if she will be appearing at the recital or not...
What kind of announcement is this?
It just sounds like a prank meant to stir things up
IT'S A TRAP

CHAPTER 35/END